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-Jung
www.kwaidan.net

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KWAÏDAN™

Story
JUNG and JEE-YUN

Art
JUNG

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JUNG and JEE-YUN

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CLEM ROBINS

To my "little darling" Alya
To every mother in the world
To my son, Charlie.
-Jung

Dark Horse Books™

IN NORTHERN JAPAN, DURING THE TWELFTH CENTURY, TWO RIVAL CLANS WAGED CONSTANT AND BLOODY BATTLES AGAINST ONE ANOTHER...
FAR FROM THERE, THE CASTLE OF THE OKADA CLAN WAS THE SITE OF STRANGE EVENTS...

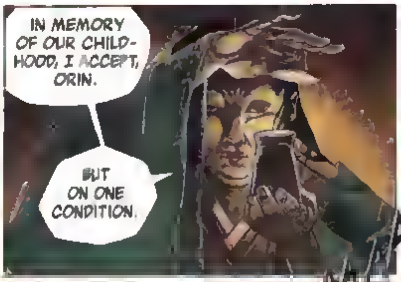
LADY ORIN!
LADY ORIN!
LORD SABURO HAS ARRIVED HE WISHES TO SEE YOU.
TELL HIM I'M SICK. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RECEIVE HIM
BUT HE CAME ESPECIALLY TO--
NOT ANOTHER WORD ANJU! HE'S THE FIFTH SUITOR TO CALL ON ME. HOW I LOATHE THESE VULTURES THAT PREY ON THE NOBILITY
NANKO-SAN IS AWAY FIGHTING OUR ENEMIES. AS YOU KNOW, I'M COUNTING THE DAYS TILL HIS RETURN.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER, LADY AKANE?
MY DEAR SISTER AKANE? HOW COULD I FORGET? AKANE, CONSUMED BY JEALOUSY...AND YOU WITH YOUR CONSTANT REMINDERS
SINCE I CONFESSED MY LOVE FOR NANKO, SHE THINKS OF ME AS A RIVAL AND YET AS YOUNG GIRLS WE WERE LIKE TWINS
ONCE SO ALIKE, AND NOW SO DIFFERENT.

YOU ASKED TO SEE ME?

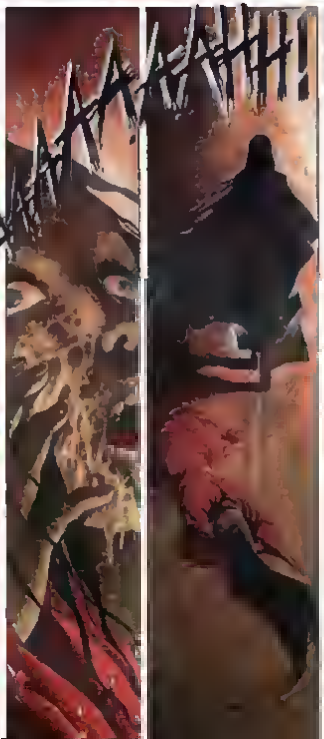
YES. COME SIT NEXT TO ME, AKANE.

I WOULD LIKE US TO SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES.
THE WAR IS DRAWING TO AN END AND NANKO WILL BE BACK SOON.
LET US ALLOW HIM TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY OFFER... IN MEMORY OF OUR CHILDHOOD.


IN MEMORY OF OUR CHILD-HOOD, I ACCEPT, ORIN.
BUT ON ONE CONDITION.

LET'S EVEN THE CONTEST. WE'LL SEE IF HE LOVES YOU ENOUGH TO MARRY YOU NOW!


AAAA

DAYS PASSED, AND WINTER CAME. ABANDONED BY ALL, LADY ORIN WANDERED NEAR THE LAKE...
TO SLEEP, TO DIE ALONE IN THE SHADOW OF THE RUSHES...
FORGIVE ME...
MY BELOVED

YOU MUST BE SURPRISED TO FIND ME SITTING IN MY SISTER'S PLACE. YOU'VE COME TOO LATE
THINKING YOU WERE DEAD, IN A FIT OF MADNESS, ORIN KILLED HERSELF. HER BODY NOW RESTS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE LAKE.
KILLED HER-SELF?!
YES. YOU HEARD RIGHT.
WAIT, NANKO! DON'T GO!
LET ME BE!
WHY? WHY? YOU HAD NO RIGHT!
ORIN! THROUGH THE WAR YOUR LOVE WAS MY ONLY LIGHT. NOW THAT YOU'VE CHOSEN THE PATH OF DARKNESS, I MUST FOLLOW!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAH
I...I LOVED YOU... YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL...

DON'T CRY, MY LOVE.
I PROMISE THAT THINGS WILL TURN OUT RIGHT ONE DAY. A GIRL WILL BE BORN. SHE WILL FIND THE LAKE
..AND PUT AN END TO OUR SUFFERING.
AKANE, SOLE HEIR, WAS UNABLE TO FEND OFF THE CONSTANT ATTACKS BY ENEMY CLANS...
SHE WAS LEFT TO WANDER ALONE...
UNTIL THE DAY SHE DISCOVERED THE STRANGE POWERS OF THE LAKE..

NESTLED IN THE FOLDS OF TIME, A CHILD SLUMBERED WAITING TO BE CALLED INTO LIFE...
TWO CENTURIES LATER...

SHINJI!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME HERE GO BACK TO THE HILL!
LET ME PLAY WITH YOU, PLEASE.
BUT...BUT YOU PROMISED--
GO! NOW!

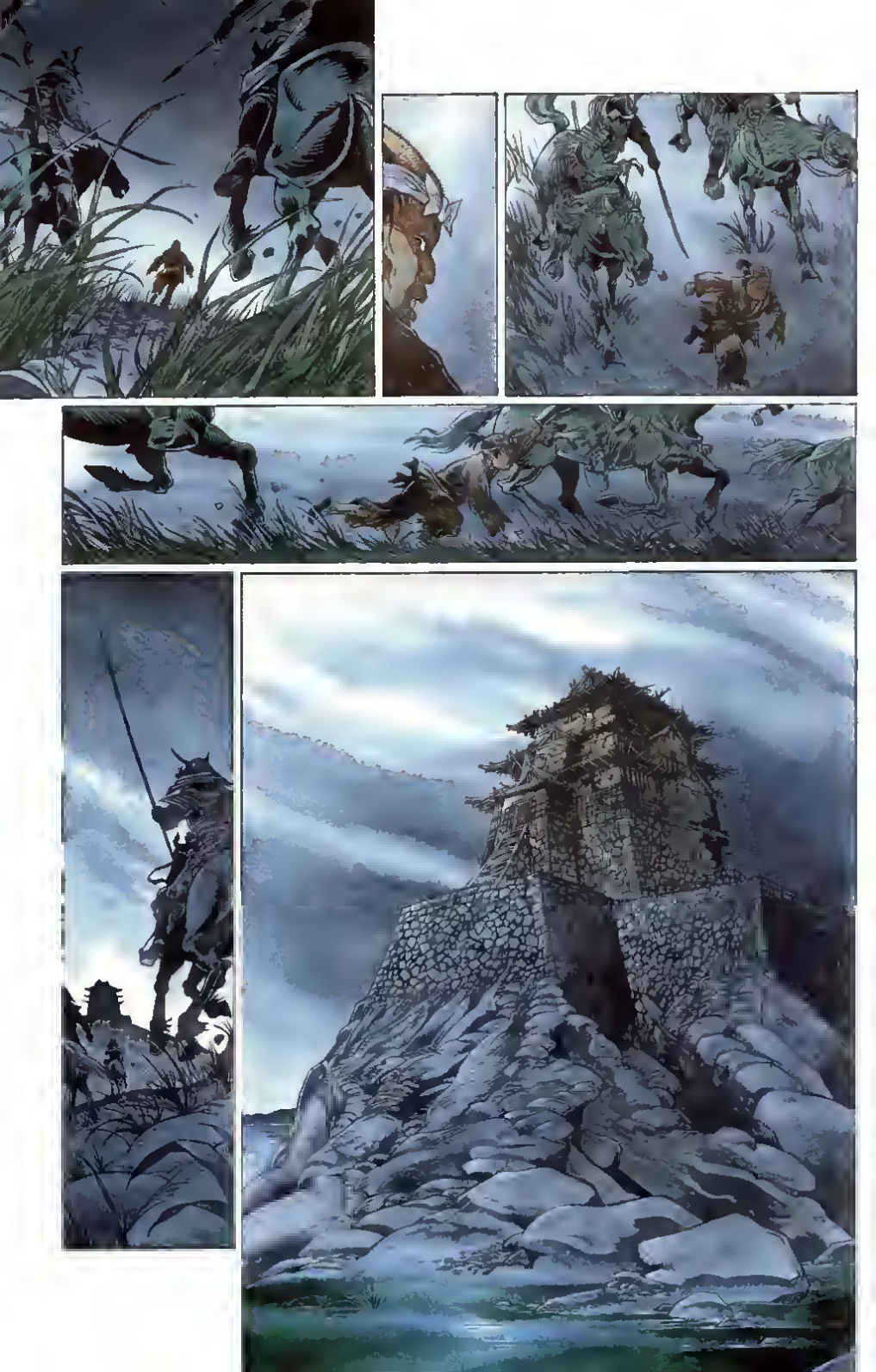
HE SAID GO AWAY!!
BUT--?
AAAAAAAAHHH!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME
NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK FOR US ALL, THAT'S WHAT SHE IS!

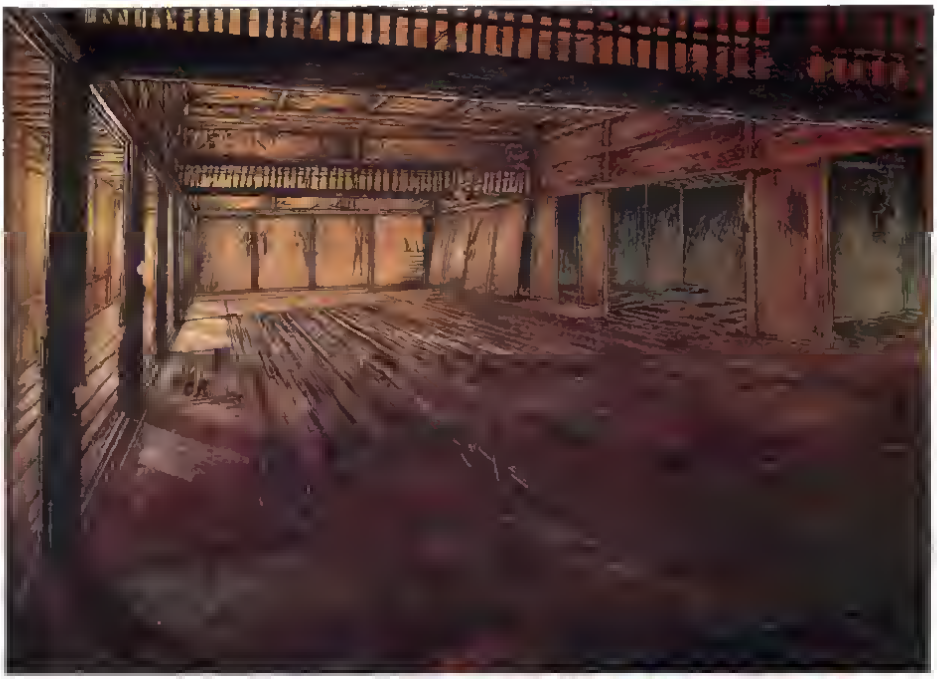
I BROUGHT YOU A BOWL OF RICE BEFORE GOING BACK TO THE VILLAGE.
HAVE SOME, SETSUKO...
SHOW ME YOUR CUT.
I WISH I HAD A MOTHER!
I HAVE TO TAKE YOUR MASK OFF TO HELP YOU.
WHY DIDN'T SHE WANT ME?
BECAUSE OF MY FACE?
BECAUSE I HAVE NO FACE?
TELL ME, SANPEI-SAN, WAS SHE PRETTY?
PRETTY AS A DREAM...?

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER, LITTLE ONE
THE...THE CEMETERY?
I'M AFRAID, SANPEI!

THIS IS IT
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
THIS IS YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE.
SHE DIED WHILE GIVING BIRTH TO YOU UNDER VERY STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES
I SAW WHAT HAPPENED—BUT WANTED TO FORGET IT ALL

TEN YEARS LATER .





USHIO!

USHIO!

AH...THERE YOU ARE, MY FRIENDS.

HA HA HA! MY KWAÏDAN!* HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE! COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS...
YOU TOO, USHIO, COME!
MY FAITHFUL LIEUTENANT
"DO YOU REMEMBER THAT MISTY NIGHT"
"FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE PASSED, BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN...
*GHOSTS

"FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, SHE WAS AT MY MERCY, A PRISONER OF THE LAKE— BUT ON THAT DAY—
"... MY SISTER TRIED TO SLIP AWAY
"DESTROY MY ETERNITY! THAT'S WHAT SHE TRIED TO DO! SHE KNOWS THE WATERS OF THE LAKE ARE SACRED ONLY BECAUSE HER SOUL IS IMPRISONED THERE!"

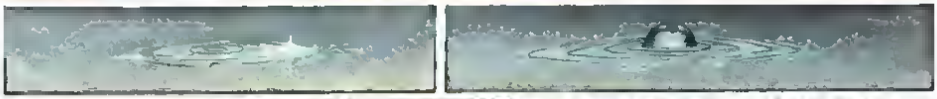
"RACING AGAINST TIME, SHE SOUGHT OUT A SMALL BEING, NEARING PERFECTION, IN WHOM SHE COULD BE REBORN—HA HA HA! MY POOR LITTLE SISTER! DAMNED FOR ALL ETERNITY!"
AT LAST! THE VILLAGE
FORGIVE ME, YOUNG MOTHER, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.

KRAAAK!!...
WH-WHAT--
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!...
HARM HER?
IN MY DUTY AS LADY AKANE'S LIEUTENANT
I, USHIO HIJIKATA, WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU NEVER TRY TO HARM HER AGAIN.
IS THERE HARM IN WANTING TO LIVE? AKANE HAS LIVED FOR CENTURIES THANKS TO THE WATERS OF THE LAKE... THANKS TO THE LAKE'S TEARS...
PURE, WARM TEARS, LIKE THOSE OF A CHILD WHO CAN-NOT BE BORN.

ENOUGH!! I'LL USE FORCE IF I MUST TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE CASTLE.
LET'S GO!
GOODBYE, LITTLE GIRL A PART OF ME NOW LIVES IN YOU
QUICK!
THERE MAY BE TIME.
TOO LATE, BUT I CAN STILL SAVE...
...THE CHILD
HURRY, SANPEI! YOU CAN DO IT.
WH--? BY AL THE KAMI!
THE CHILD HAS NO.. NO...

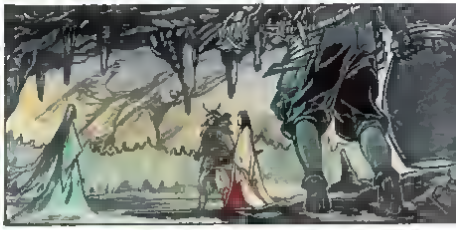
.. FACE, DEAR SISTER, THAT'S A MEMORY YOU'D RATHER FORGET, ISN'T IT? HIDDEN AWAY IN THE CORNERS OF YOUR MIND...
UNFORGIVABLE IN THE EYES OF THE GODS. YOUR DESPERATE ACT PREVENTS YOU FROM BEING REBORN AND CONDEMNS YOU TO LINGER, FOREVER DISFIGURED, BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
I DESTROYED YOUR BEAUTY, LITTLE SISTER, AND YOU CANNOT FORGET IT.
I SHALL REMIND YOU OF IT NIGHT AND DAY

OH, SPIRIT OF THE LAKE, I BEG YOU... LET ME SPEAK WITH YOUR PRISONER!



GREETINGS, ORIN, I'VE COME, AS I DO WITH EVERY NEW MOON, TO EXTEND MY LIFE A WHILE LONGER.

GUARDS! BRING ME THE KAME

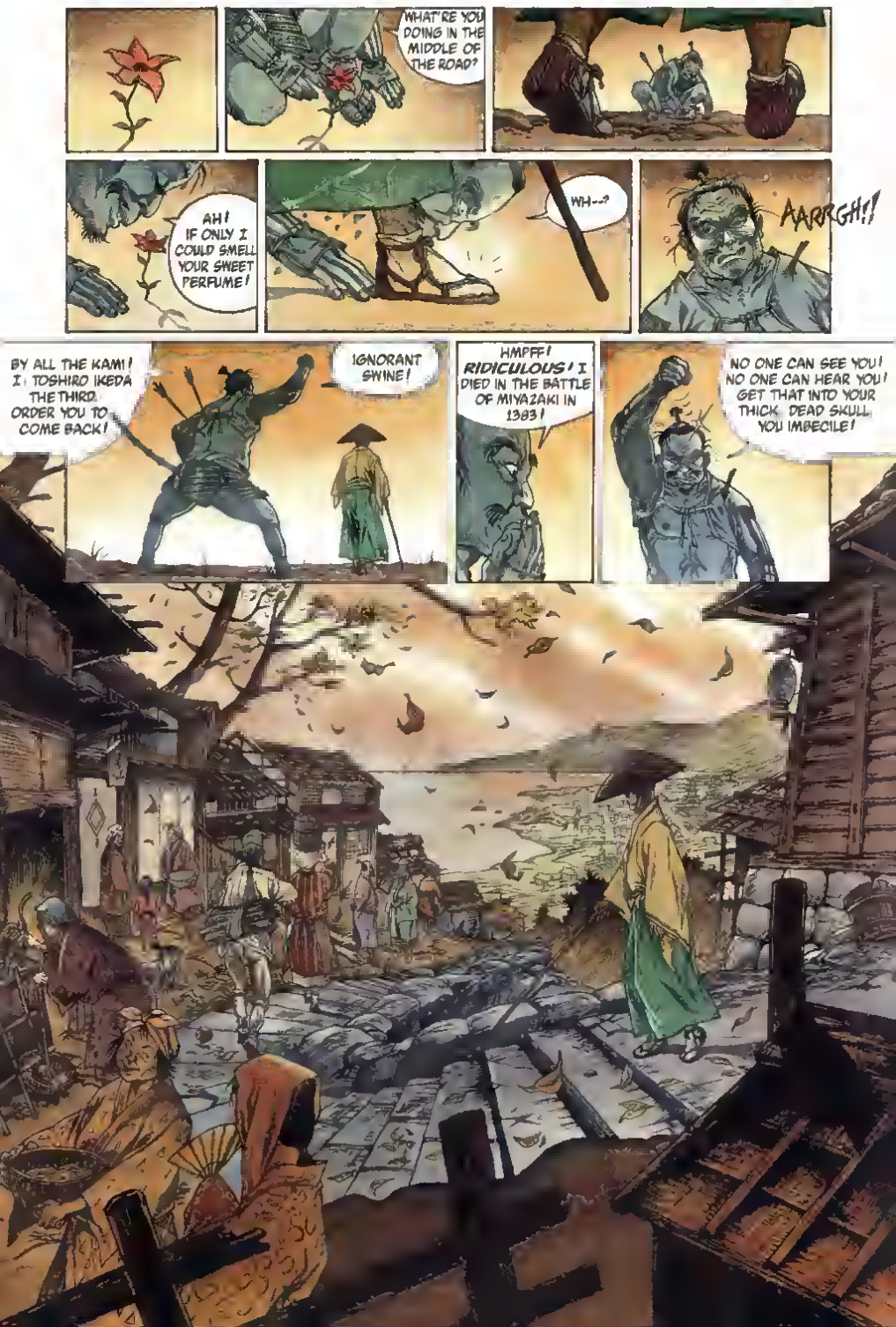


IT'S IRONIC, ISN'T IT, THAT YOUR DEATH GAVE LIFE TO THIS WATER

AND THIS LIFE, THIS SPIRIT, GRANTS OUR MOST CHERISHED DREAM

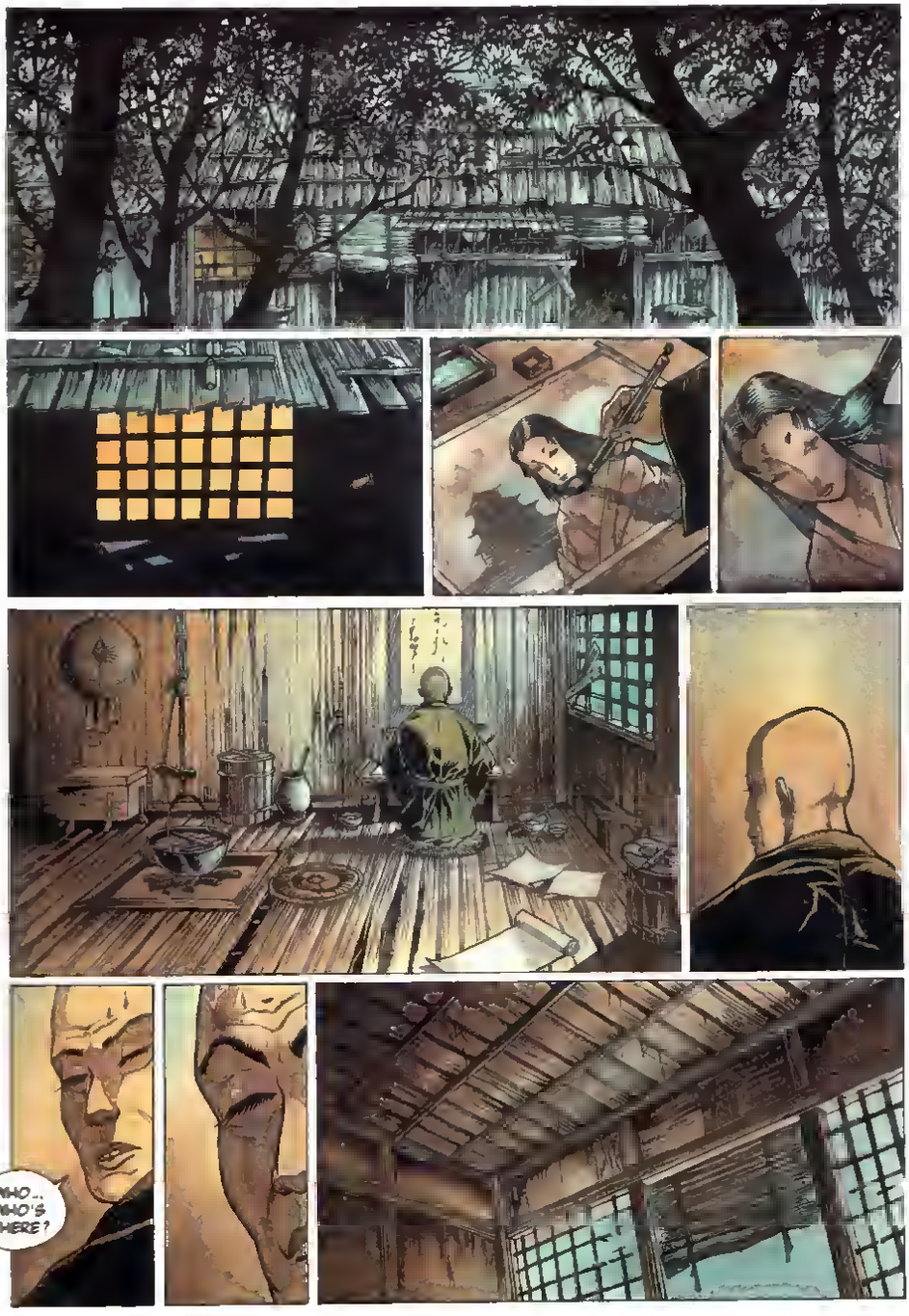
OR, RATHER, OUR ILLUSIONS...

WHAT OF YOUR ILLUSIONS, ORIN? YOUR SUICIDE CONDEMNS YOU TO DWELL AMONG THE LOST SOULS. HOPING TO BE INCARNATED, YOU KILLED TWO INNOCENTS AND FOR THAT, THE GODS MADE ME THE GUARDIAN OF THESE SACRED WATERS IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
DON'T REJOICE YET, AKANE NOTHING IS EVER FINAL!
OH, I KNOW AND BELIEVE ME, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE SAVES YOU FROM YOUR CURSE
THEN COME WHAT MAY, AND LET ME TAKE LEAVE FROM YOU NOW, DEAR SISTER
I DON'T LIKE HER TONE OF VOICE SHE SEEMS CONFIDENT, BUT WHAT HOPE CAN SHE STILL HAVE?
SEND FOR THE PRISONER!
COME HERE, WRETCHED MORTAL!
DON'T BE AFRAID. LET'S PUT AN END TO YOUR PITIFUL EXISTENCE
GIVE YOURSELF TO DEATH IT'S THE PASSAGE TO THE LIFE YOU DREAM OF
LET HIM SAVOR THESE LAST MOMENTS BEFORE HE JOINS OUR FAMILY

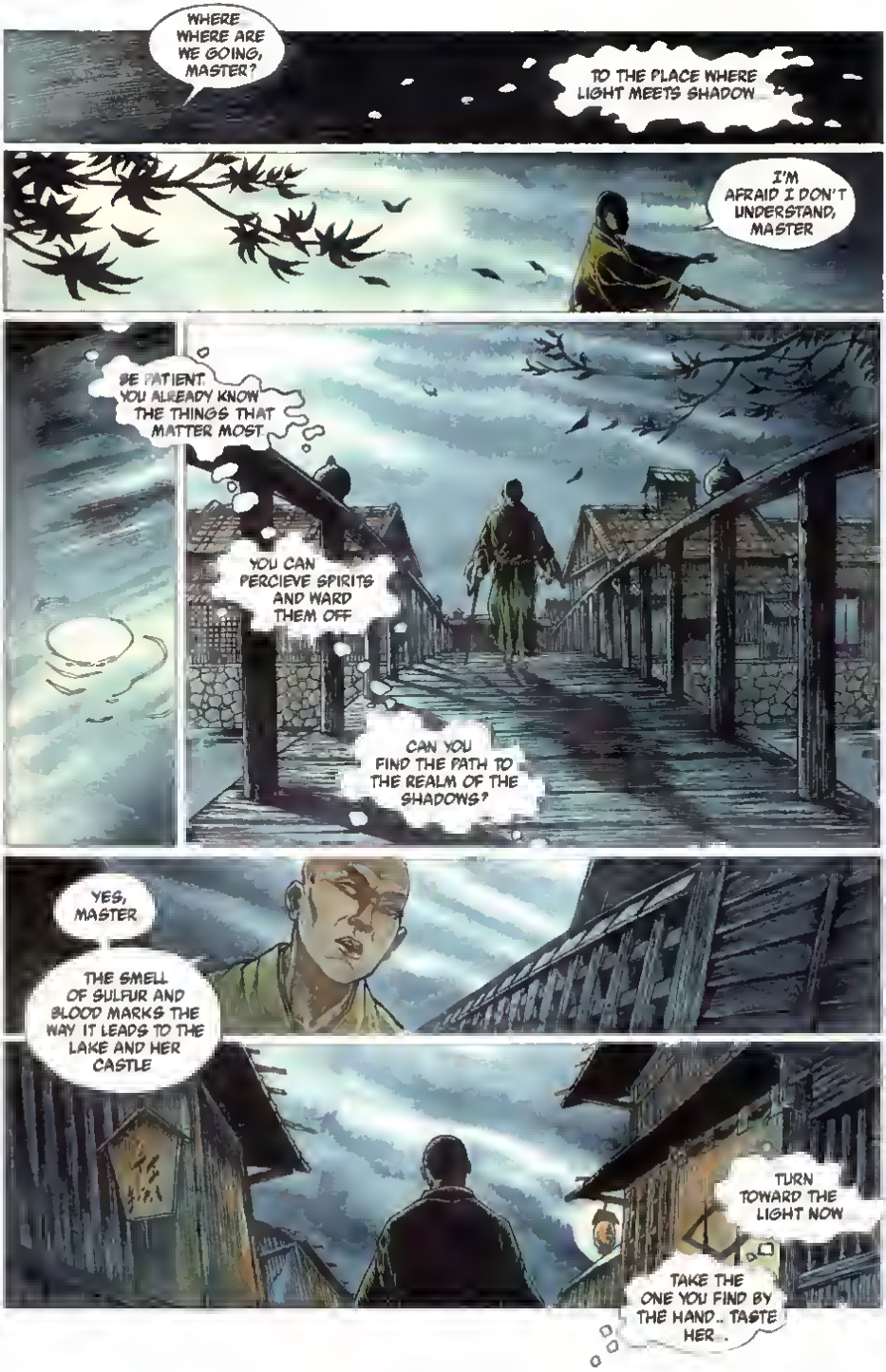

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD?
AH! IF ONLY I COULD SMELL YOUR SWEET PERFUME!
WH--?
AARRGH!!
BY ALL THE KAMI! I, TOSHIRO IKEDA THE THIRD, ORDER YOU TO COME BACK!
IGNORANT SWINE!
HMPFF! RIDICULOUS! I DIED IN THE BATTLE OF MIYAZAKI IN 1383!
NO ONE CAN SEE YOU! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU! GET THAT INTO YOUR THICK, DEAD SKULL, YOU IMBECILE!

I WAS HERE FIRST, SIR!
NO! I WAS!
I SUGGEST WE SETTLE THIS OUTSIDE.
NO PROBLEM. LET'S GO!
PLEASE, GENTLEMEN! THERE'S NO NEED TO FUSS!
YOU'LL EACH HAVE YOUR TURN. RELAX! SHE SHOULD BE DONE SOON. HAVE A GLASS OF OUR BEST SAKE IN THE MEANTIME. IT'S ON THE HOUSE
GO AHEAD, SHE WON'T BE LONG NOW

BUSINESS HAS BEEN BOOMING SINCE I BEGAN TRADING WITH THE KOREANS I'VE SOLD FIFTY THOUSAND RYU WORTH OF FABRIC
LUCKY DEVIL!
ALWAYS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME
HA HA HA! YOU SAID IT, MY DEAR KIYOMORI SAN!
LOOK... THERE'S SEMINARU, THE BLIND MAN.
STRANGE BOY. HE CAN'T SEE A THING, BUT IT SEEMS HE'S A GIFTED PAINTER. THEY SAY HE'S HAUNTED BY A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...
...AND PAINTS NOTHING BUT HER FACE
...?
HEY! MY SAKE!

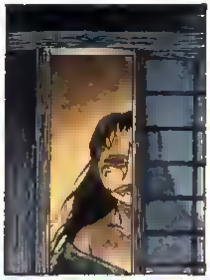

WHO... WHO'S THERE?

M-MASTER? IS THAT YOU?
TO SEE YOU, MY BELOVED...ONE LAST TIME.
LIKE THE SWEETNESS OF DREAMS
SEMINARU-SAN, FOR THIRTY YEARS NOW, I'VE COME TO YOU ON THE SAME DAY, THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY DEATH TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CROSS INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES. THAT IS WHY I CHOSE YOU.
YOUR APPRENTICE-SHIP ENDS TODAY.
GET UP WE HAVE ONE LAST THING TO DO
YES, MASTER!

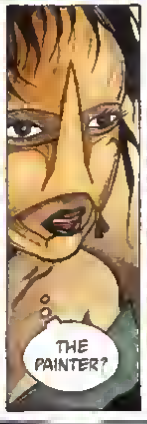

WHERE WHERE ARE WE GOING, MASTER?
TO THE PLACE WHERE LIGHT MEETS SHADOW...
I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MASTER
BE PATIENT. YOU ALREADY KNOW THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.
YOU CAN PERCIEVE SPIRITS AND WARD THEM OFF
CAN YOU FIND THE PATH TO THE REALM OF THE SHADOWS?
YES, MASTER
THE SMELL OF SULFUR AND BLOOD MARKS THE WAY IT LEADS TO THE LAKE AND HER CASTLE
TURN TOWARD THE LIGHT NOW
TAKE THE ONE YOU FIND BY THE HAND.. TASTE HER...

IT WON'T BE EASY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE, SETSUKO
DON'T FORGET, THE MATRON IS VERY ATTACHED TO YOU
TO ME? OR TO THE MONEY I BRING IN? I'M JUST HERE TO SATISFY THE CURIOSITY OF SICK MINDS I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I HAD A DREAM...
I WANTED TO BATHE IN LAKE AMADA, I KEPT HOPING FOR A MIRACLE.
I'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE LAKE. THEY SAY THOSE WHO GO NEVER RETURN IT'S A FORBIDDEN PLACE PROTECTED BY THE KWAIDAN
SOME SAY THE SOUL OF A PRINCESS IS IMPRISONED THERE.
DON'T GO, SETSUKO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF GHOSTS.
IN MY VILLAGE, THE PEOPLE CALLED ME...
SETSUKO THE DAMNED

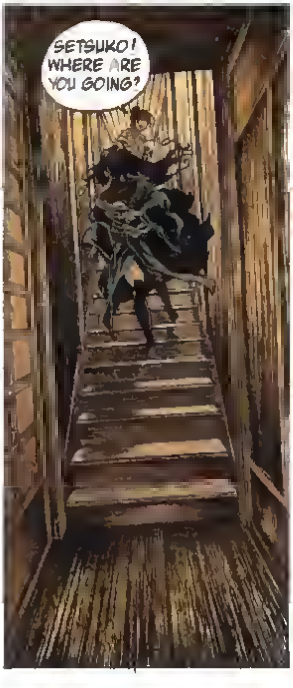
I LIVED ALONE, CAST OFF BY THE OTHERS I WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK.
MY ONLY MOMENTS OF PEACE WERE IN THE CEMETERY...
...NEAR MY MOTHER...
...AAAAAAHH!!...
THE LIGHT WENT OUT!
I'M AFRAID, SETSUKO!
CALM DOWN, KEIKO I'LL LIGHT A CANDLE
LISTEN, DO YOU HEAR SOUNDS? WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED LIKE THIS... IT WAKES THE EVIL SPIRITS.
THE WINDOW IS OPEN. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DRAFT.



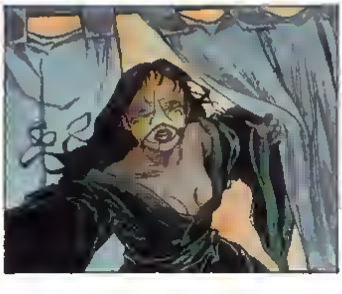
WELL, NOW. LOST YOUR WAY, BLIND ONE?
YOU'RE IN THE PLEASURE DISTRICT HERE.
BUT MAYBE YOU WANNA SPEND A FEW RYU, HMN?


THE PAINTER?

HEY? YA DEAF? I WOULDN'T MIND VISITING THE LADIES WITH YA!
SPARE A FEW COINS? THAT'D BE REAL NICE HMN??

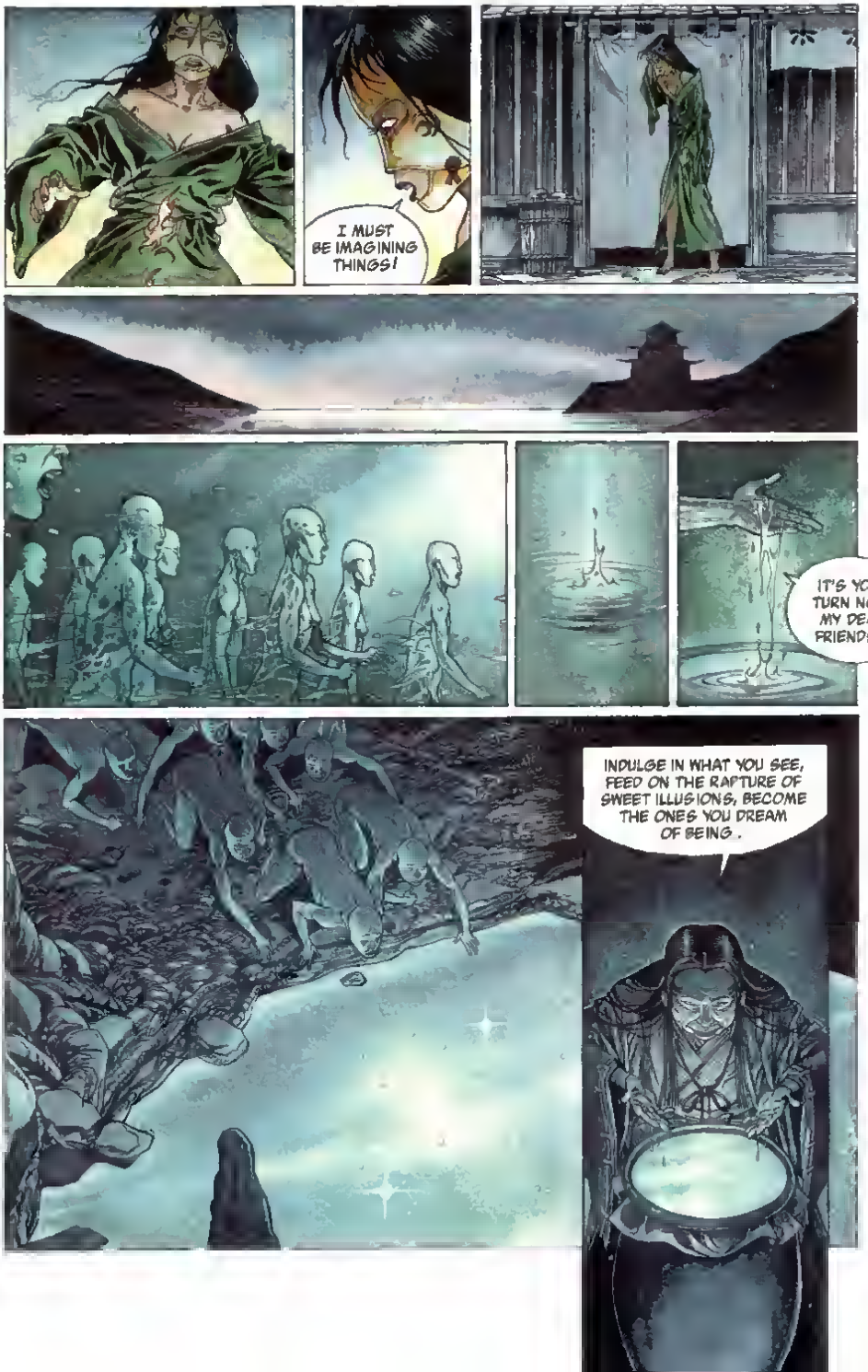

SETSUKO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

FINE. FORGET IT. YOU'RE NOT MUCH FUN, HUH? I'LL GET YA BACK HOME...
WHERE D'YA LIVE?



TOO LATE, THEY'VE LEFT.

WH--?!
A LETTER? NO, AN ADDRESS! AND--
?!!!!

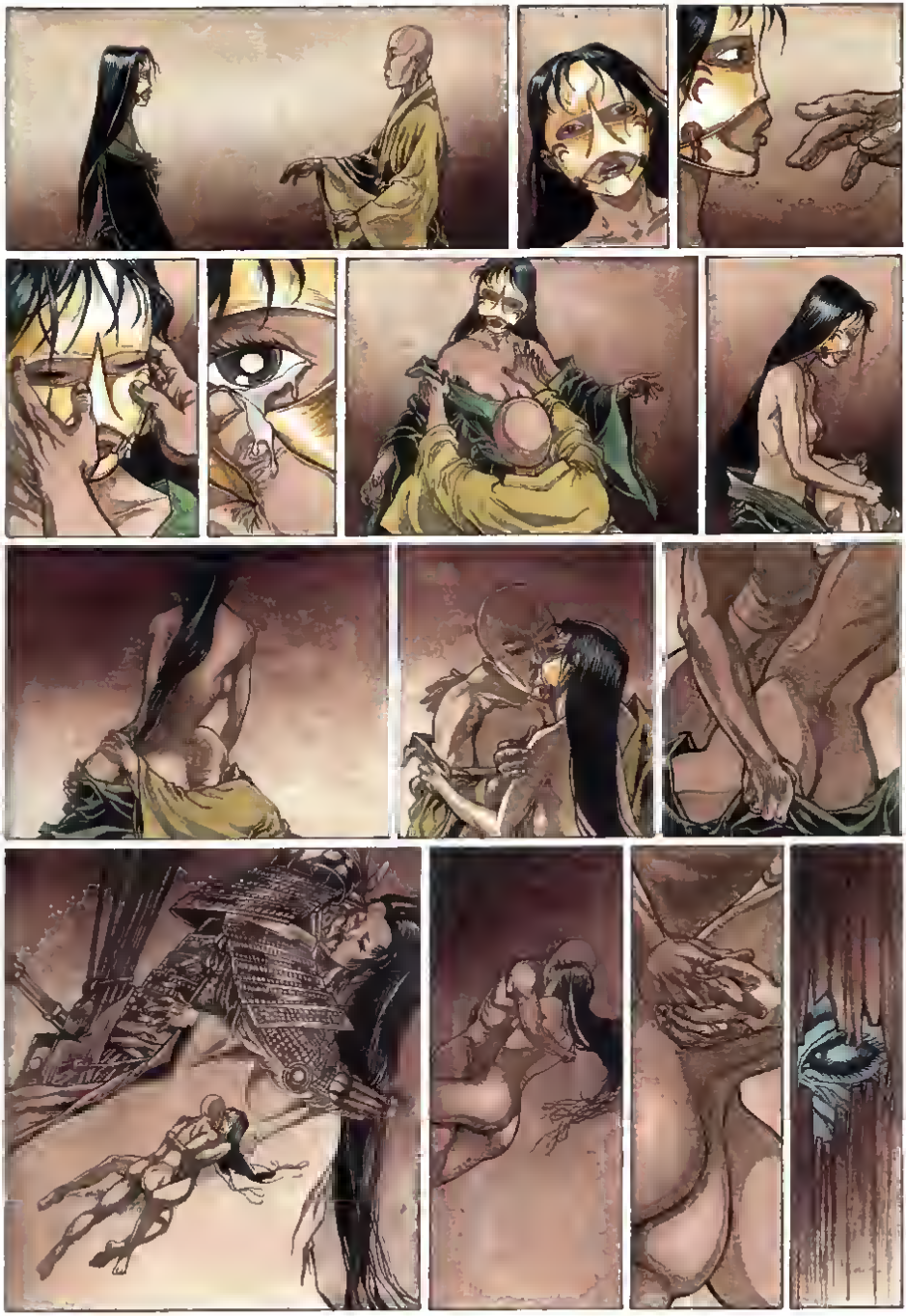

I MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS!
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW MY DEAR FRIENDS
INDULGE IN WHAT YOU SEE, FEED ON THE RAPTURE OF SWEET ILLUSIONS, BECOME THE ONES YOU DREAM OF BEING.

GIVE YOURSELVES TO ME, MY CHILDREN, AND I WILL LET YOU BASK IN THESE MOMENTS OF PLEASURE
TAKE WHAT LIFE REFUSED AND ENJOY!
ALL WE HAVE LEFT...
..ARE ILLUSIONS
NOW, LET US GATHER TOGETHER. LOOK AT HOW OUR FAMILY HAS GROWN!

AND OUR STRENGTH AS WELL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
YES, I DO.
IF YOU'RE SCARED, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK.
HA, HA! VERY FUNNY!

UM...
IT MUST BE THERE.
IT LOOKS EMPTY
I'M GOING IN
SETSUKO, I... I'M AFRAID WE--
DON'T WORRY, BIG GIRL, I UNDERSTAND YOU CAN LEAVE
HELLO!
ANYBODY HOME?

I WAS RIGHT THE BLIND MAN LIVES HERE
A BLIND PAINTER... HOW STRANGE
HE'S TALENTED, BUT ALWAYS PAINTS THE SAME WOMAN
HER FACE IS MAGNIFICENT... AND YET IT SEEMS TERRIBLY SAD
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
HERE I AM, CRYING LIKE A CHILD. I FEEL SO CONFUSED! FIRST THE LETTER, NOW THESE PICTURES...
HELP ME UNDERSTAND
NO! HOW COULD I BE SO CLUMSY! SHE NO LONGER HAS A--?!
SHE HAS NO FACE?
THIS CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE. SOMEONE IS TRYING TO..

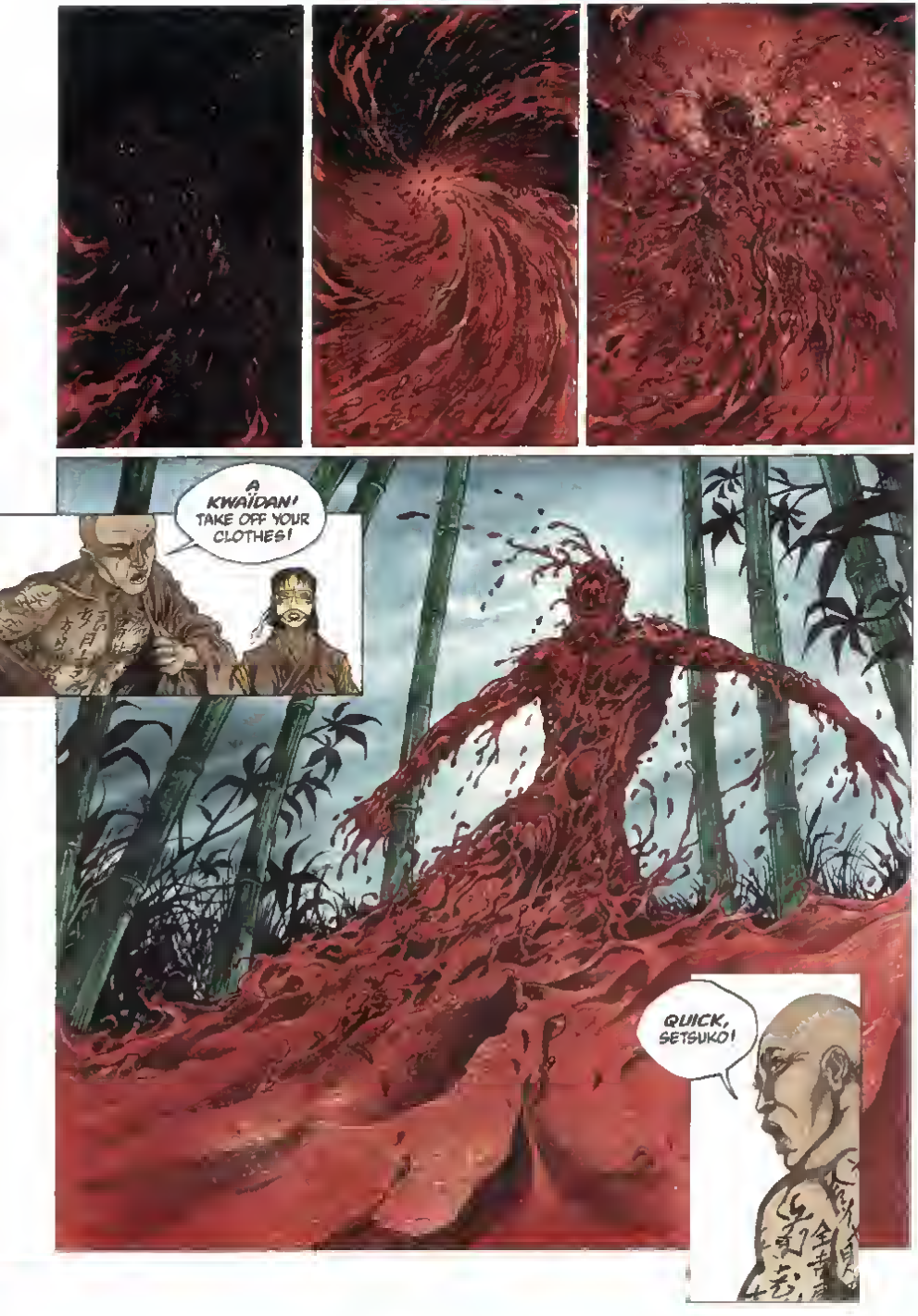


INCREDIBLE! THE MASK IS SO SIMILAR!
I MUST TELL AKANE!
WHO IS THE WOMAN IN YOUR PAINTINGS?
HER FACE HAS HAUNTED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER.
I KNOW SHE WAS A PRINCESS IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY
A TRAGIC DESTINY LED HER TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN THE WATERS OF LAKE AMADA.
AMADA? I'VE HEARD OF THIS MIRACULOUS LAKE!
I HAVE TO GET THERE!
YOU MUST KNOW THAT IT'S HAUNTED BY DEMONS AND SPIRITS. IF YOU INSIST ON GOING...
...I'LL JOIN YOU.
BUT CERTAIN PREPARATIONS HAVE TO BE MADE

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
I'M TIRED OF WALKING, SEMINARU
AND IT'S BEGINNING TO RAIN
COME! WE'LL FIND SHELTER IN THE FOREST.

HAHAHAH
HA! HA! HA! I'VE NEVER LAUGHED SO HARD! I'M ACHING ALL OVER
. BUT I FEEL ALIVE. IT'S LOVELY
IT'S SO EASY.. LETTING GO AND TASTING THE MOMENT
WHY LOOK ELSWHERE FOR WHAT I'VE FOUND WITH HIM?

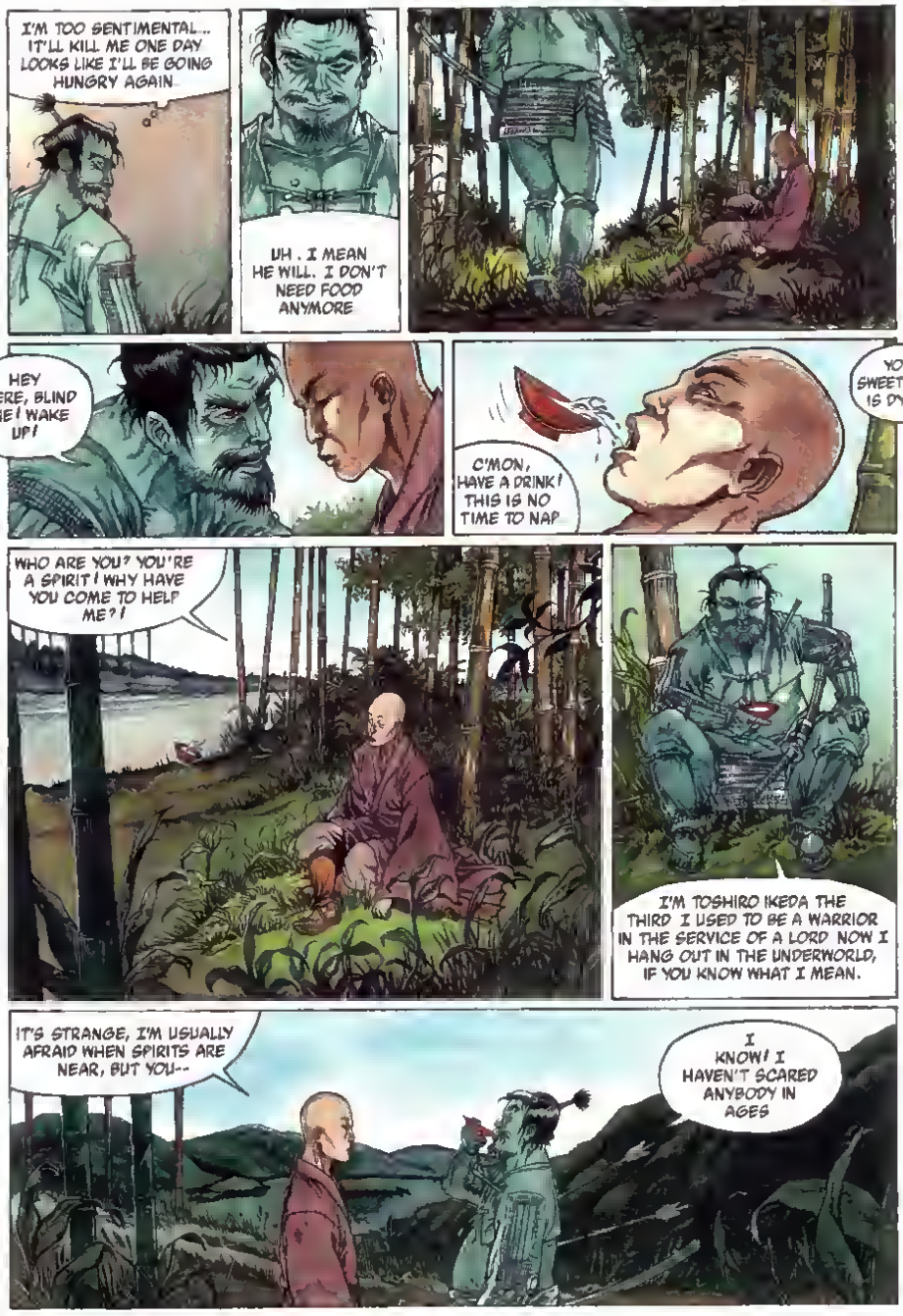
KISS ME.
BLOOD!? IT'S... IT'S RAINING BLOOD!
QUICK, SETSUKO!
LET'S LEAVE THIS FOREST!
MY HANDS! THEY'RE COVERED IN BLOOD!
DON'T STOP!
LOOK...OVER THERE...


A KWAIDAN! TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!
QUICK, SETSUKO!

AS LONG AS HE SEES THE SACRED TEXT, HE CAN'T TOUCH US! YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF...
...NOW!!
RUN, SETSUKO--!

SETSUKO!
SETSUKO!
SETSUKO...

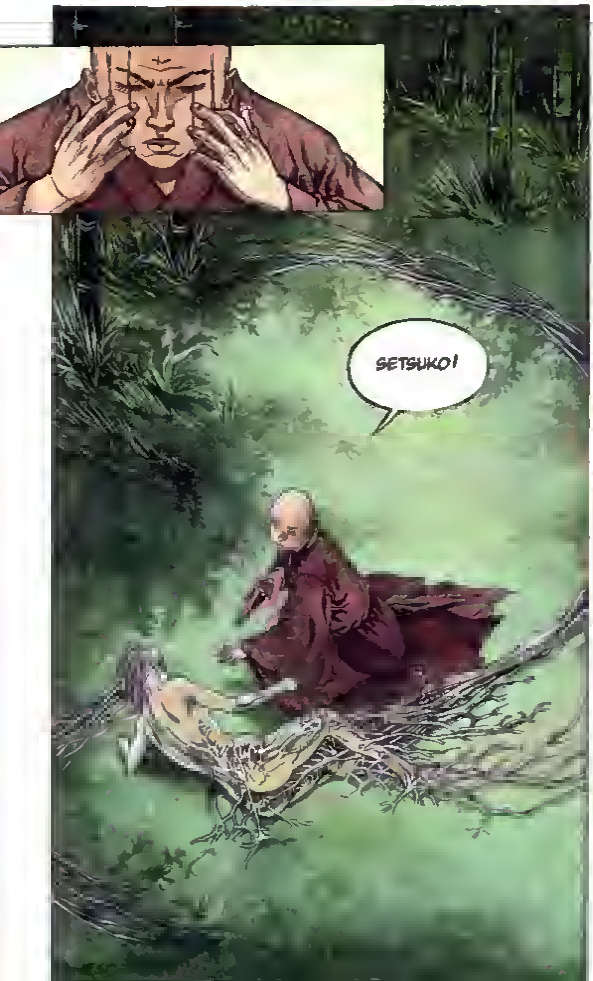
HA! THAT BIRD IS MINE!
TOO BAD! THEY'RE A PAIR. KILLING THE OSHIDORI* WOULD BE FATAL!
THE MALE HAS SENSED MY PRESENCE.
GO AHEAD, FLY... AND PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONE, MISTER OSHIDORI.
*OSHIDORI: MANDARIN DUCKS, SYMBOLS OF ETERNAL LOVE.


I'M TOO SENTIMENTAL... IT'LL KILL ME ONE DAY LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE GOING HUNGRY AGAIN
UH . I MEAN HE WILL. I DON'T NEED FOOD ANYMORE
HEY THERE, BLIND ONE! WAKE UP!
C'MON, HAVE A DRINK! THIS IS NO TIME TO NAP
YOUR SWEETHEART IS DYING
WHO ARE YOU? YOU'RE A SPIRIT! WHY HAVE YOU COME TO HELP ME?!
I'M TOSHIRO IKEDA THE THIRD I USED TO BE A WARRIOR IN THE SERVICE OF A LORD NOW I HANG OUT IN THE UNDERWORLD, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
IT'S STRANGE, I'M USUALLY AFRAID WHEN SPIRITS ARE NEAR, BUT YOU--
I KNOW! I HAVEN'T SCARED ANYBODY IN AGES

WHERE IS SHE, TOSHIRO?
BEHIND YOU, SEMINARU.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T SEE, BUT, EVEN IF YOU COULD, THERE'D BE NOTHING BUT A BAMBOO GROVE
IT'S... A FOREST OF LOST SOULS...
YOUR MASTER TAUGHT YOU WELL! NOW FIND SETSUKO! LOOK INSIDE THE BAMBOO STALKS. ONE IS SUFFERING. BUT BE CAREFUL. YOU MUST NOT MAKE A MISTAKE
THE ANSWER LIES WITHIN YOU.
TOSHIRO! BY ALL THE KAMI! HE'S GONE!
STOP, SEMINARU, CALM DOWN! CONCENTRATE!

HERE, THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE...
I'LL NEVER FIND HER LIKE THIS. THE ANSWER LIES WITHIN ME... BUT WHERE?

SEMINARU...
SEMINARU.
SEMINARU..
SEMINARU, HELP ME...
HELP ME...
AAAAAAAAAH!!!


SETSUKO!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'M HERE HOW WEAK YOU ARE! THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER.
SEMINARU..

IT ..IT ISN'T OVER .. THE ROOTS - THE PAIN IS STILL THERE

I CAN FEEL IT TOO COME! HOLD ONTO ME LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE OF DEATH
OH, NO! WE CAN'T! IT'S ALL OVER NOW!!
AAAAAAAAHHHH!!!

MASTER!
I'M SORRY..
I CAN SENSE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT.. I FAILED PLEASE FORGIVE ME
TCHAK!!..
TCHAK!!..

THERE..YOUR SILENCE WON'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN. MY ABSENCE COST US OUR LIVES, BUT NOT OUR HOPE. I'LL ANCHOR MYSELF IN YOUR ROOTS AND ARM YOU FOR THIS STRUGGLE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO LEAVE THE SHADOWS
NANKO...MY BELOVED..
ORIN ..
HOW BEAUTIFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
...EVEN IF THIS IS JUST A DREAM..

ORIN! ORIN! BE DAMNED, ORIN! BE DAMNED!
ORIN!
COME OUT, IF YOU DARE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

HERE I AM, DEAR SISTER WHY ALL THIS EXCITEMENT?
AS IF YOU DON'T KNOW! HYPOCRITE! I'VE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE PLAN YOU HATCHED IN YOUR WRETCHED DEPTHS!
A PREPOSTEROUS LOVE STORY BETWEEN A MASKED GIRL AND A BLIND MAN BELIEVE ME, I WILL SEE TO IT THAT THEIR LOVE IS DOOMED!
DOOMED! DO YOU HEAR ME?!

WH--? I'M--
NOOO!
SO, AKANE! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY WORLD? YOUR POWER FADES HERE BUT WHAT CAN YOU STILL DO TO ME THAT YOU HAVEN'T DONE ALREADY, DESPITE THE BLOOD TIES WE SHARE?!
YOU SEE, TODAY YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE MARVELOUS GIFT OF HOPE. I DIDN'T KNOW THE CHILD HAD SURVIVED.
YOU'VE PUT MY MIND AT EASE, SISTER. NOW LET'S FIGHT TO THE END ON EQUAL TERMS
JOIN ME IN MY WORLD, AKANE

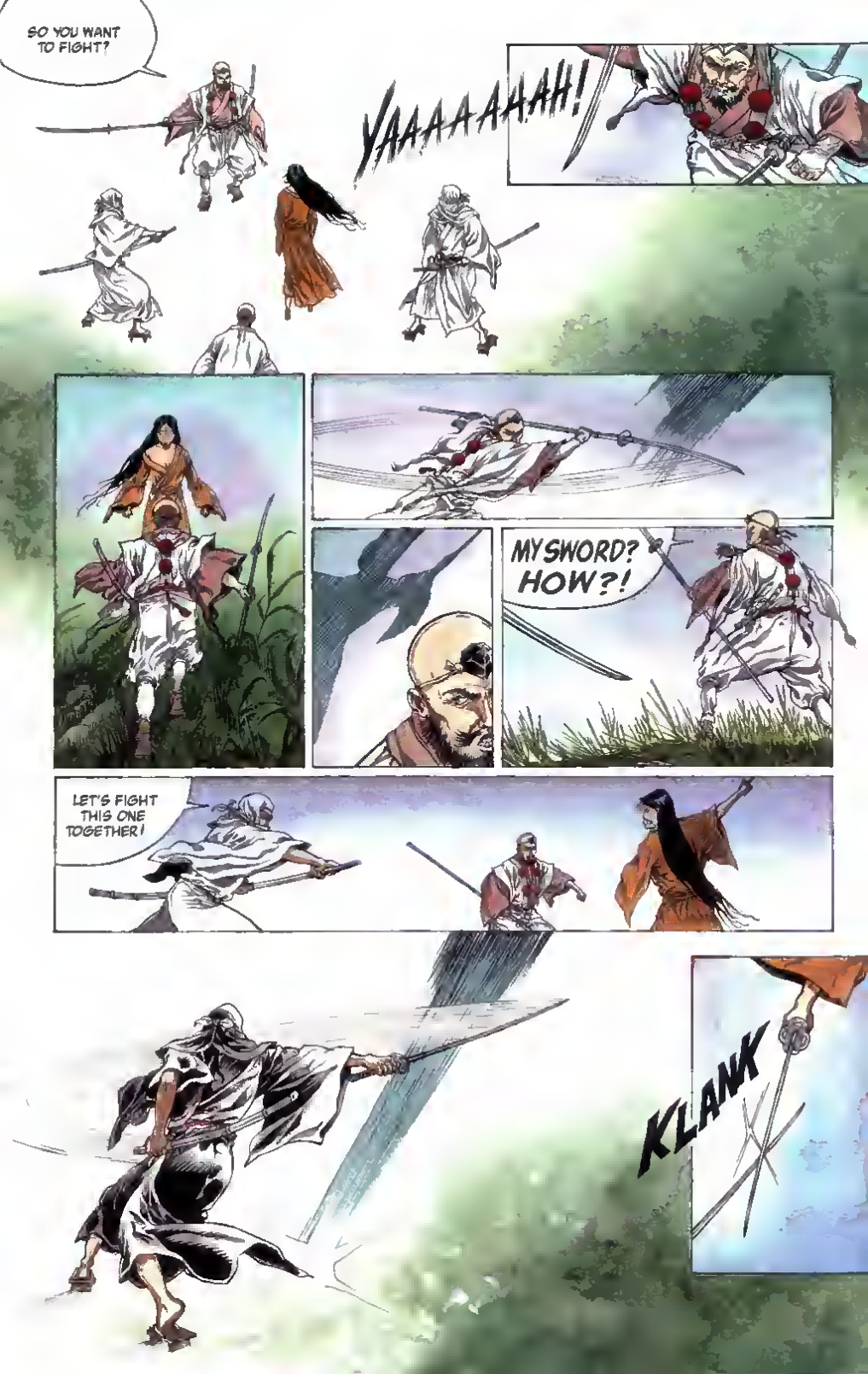
ARGH! AARRGH!!
I DESPISE YOU, ORIN! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I DECLARE WAR! REMEMBER... I HAVE AN ARMY... AND IMMORTALITY! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

AS STRANGE AS THE SAMURAI WITH THE BLOOD-WASHED EYES I COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED WITHOUT HIM
STRANGE... THE ROOTS ARE DISAPPEARING, BUT THE PAIN IS GROWING
STOP TROUBLING YOURSELF, SETSUKO
LOOK, I FOUND YOUR MASK
SEMINARU, I—
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN WHAT I'M FEELING I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT I KNOW THAT I HAVE TO GO TO LAKE AMADA
WE BOTH KNOW THAT, SETSUKO, BUT WE'RE AT THE HEART OF THE FORBIDDEN REALM REALITY AND ILLUSION ARE ONE HERE WE HAVE TO MOVE ON CAREFULLY
BUT THE THINGS I EXPERIENCED IN THAT BAMBOO GROVE... THE ROOTS, THEIR MEMORIES... THEY WERE ALL REAL
THE GIRL RIDDLED WITH ARROWS WAS ME...AND THEY KILLED HER...
...AS WELL AS A CHILDHOOD I DIDN'T ASK FOR
YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST, SETSUKO
AND IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT IT, AT LEAST TRY TO LIVE WITH IT.
NO, SEMINARU I'M SURE I WAS NEVER DESTINED FOR THAT LIFE

LEAD ME TO THE CASTLE AND ITS LAKE I WILL BE YOUR EYES
WE HAVE TO SLEEP NOW IT'S LATE, AND WE HAVE FAR TO GO
AAAAAH?!
SETSUKO?!
SETSUKO!
BY ALL THE KAMI! WHERE DID SHE GO?

SETSUKO?
HUH?
HEY! BLIND ONE!
WAIT!
I SAID WAIT!
AAAARRGH!? WHAT?
HEH HEH...
WHY SO FAST, BOY? STILL LOOKING FOR YOUR PRETTY ONE? HMN?
TOSHIRO?!
HELP ME FIND HER! I CAN'T DO IT ALONE!
SURE YOU CAN! C'MON, BIG BOY!
BUT WHY BOTHER, WITH SO MANY WOMEN TO CHOOSE FROM? HMN? ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE SERIOUS IF YOU WANT MY ADVICE, LET HER BE!
IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER, HAVE FAITH IN ALL HER CONFUSION AND STRUGGLE, THE ONE THING SHE KNOWS IS THAT SHE LOVES YOU. SHE'LL BE BACK
I'M NOT SURE
SETSUKO IS ABLE TO FIGHT AND DEFEND HERSELF, AND THAT'S WHAT SHE HAS TO FIND OUT NOTHING ELSE CAN EASE HER SUFFERING RIGHT NOW

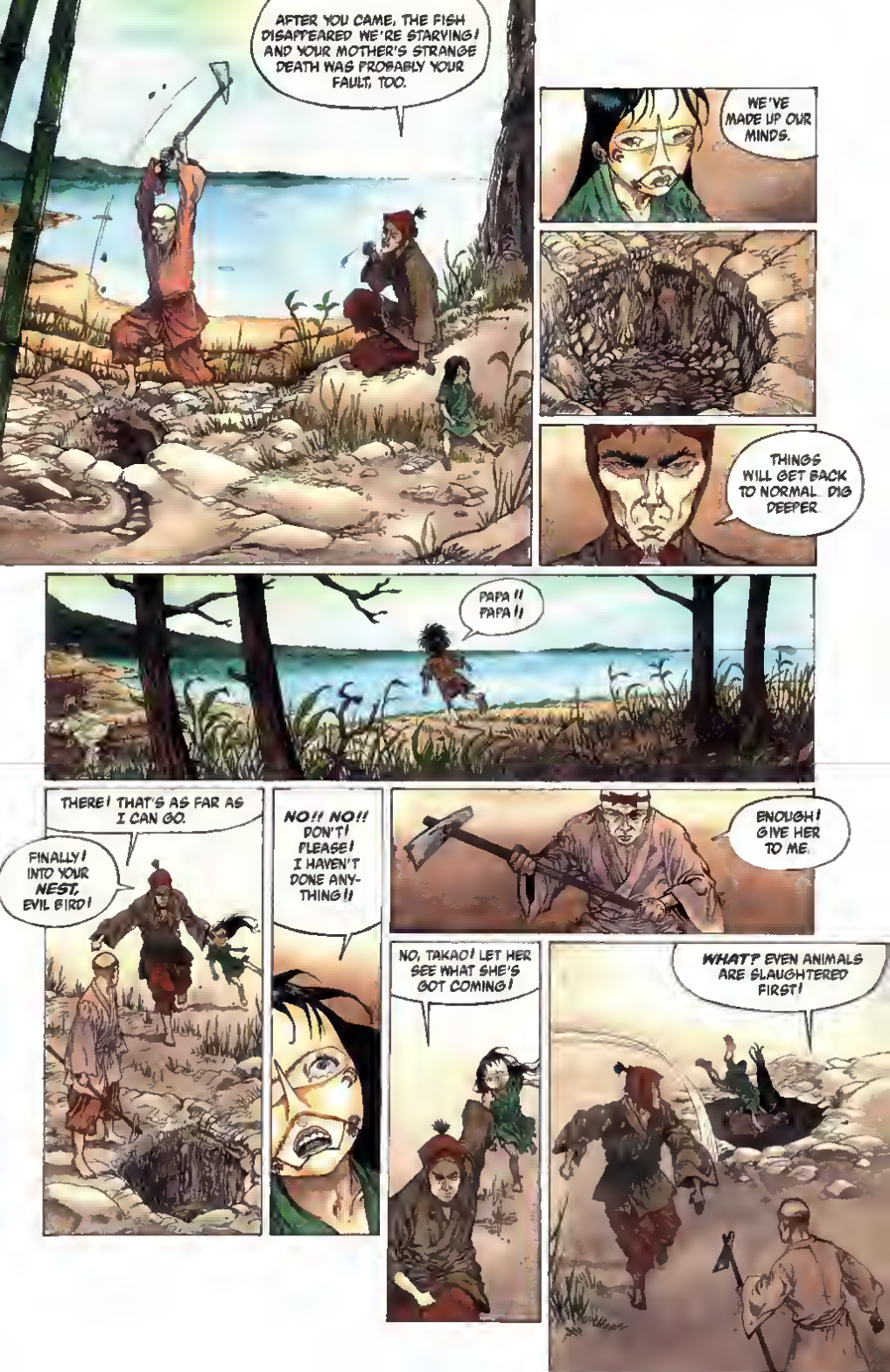
SHE'S CONFUSED SHE WANTS ANSWERS SHE FEELS ALONE AND SURROUNDED BY WALLS OF DOUBT.
SHE'LL FIGHT ANYONE WHO GETS IN HER WAY SHE WANTS TO DOMINATE SITUATIONS THAT WERE ONCE BEYOND HER CONTROL IF YOU DON'T LET HER .
.. SHE'LL TURN ON YOU
HALT! WHO GOES THERE? A MASKED FIGURE! STAND BACK OR SHOW YOURSELF
NO ANSWER? LEAVE HER TO ME I'LL HELP HER FIND HER TONGUE


SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT?
YAAAAAAAAH!
MY SWORD? HOW?!
LET'S FIGHT THIS ONE TOGETHER!
KLANK

AAARGH! WHO ARE YOU?!

KLING!!...

WAIT! WAIT FOR ME, SETSUKO! IT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU CAN'T CATCH IT, SHINJI, BUT I CAN! HA! HA!
I'VE GOT IT! LOOK!
CLAP!!
STOP! I SAID STOP!
LEAVE HER ALONE—
GET AWAY, SHINJI!
CHAC!!...
WE TOLD YOU NOT TO PLAY WITH HER! WE'RE GOING TO RID THE VILLAGE OF THIS BAD LUCK ONCE AND FOR ALL.


AFTER YOU CAME, THE FISH DISAPPEARED. WE'RE STARVING! AND YOUR MOTHER'S STRANGE DEATH WAS PROBABLY YOUR FAULT, TOO.
WE'VE MADE UP OUR MINDS.
THINGS WILL GET BACK TO NORMAL. DIG DEEPER.
PAPA !! PAPA !!
THERE! THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO.
FINALLY! INTO YOUR NEST, EVIL BIRD!
NO!! NO!! DON'T! PLEASE! I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING!!
ENOUGH! GIVE HER TO ME.
NO, TAKAO! LET HER SEE WHAT SHE'S GOT COMING!
WHAT? EVEN ANIMALS ARE SLAUGHTERED FIRST!

YOU CAN'T! IT'S NOT RIGHT I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
SHUT UP, TAKAO! YOU'RE JUST A COWARD!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
LET HER DIE IN HER HOLE, IDIOT! IF WE TOUCH HER, THE EVIL SPIRITS WILL TURN ON US.
NO! PLEASE...
MMPF! MMPF! PLEASE STOP! DON'T! PLEASE!
HEH, HEH! GOOD-BYE, BIRD OF ILL OMEN
SETSUKO!
QUICK, SHINJI! WE'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF THERE!

PAPA, IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
BE GENTLE, SHINJI, GIVE HER TIME POOR GIRL WHAT THEY DID.. IT'S INHUMAN.. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE.. IT'S TIME YOU LEFT THE VILLAGE
WHY? WHY ME? I WAS SO SCARED...
I KNOW, LITTLE ONE LISTEN, I KNOW A WOMAN IN TOWN WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU. IT'S FOR THE BEST, SETSUKO.
BUT I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.. AND SHINJI? I ONLY HAVE THE TWO OF YOU...
I KNOW, LITTLE ONE, BUT IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE
YOU HAVE TO LIVE, SETSUKO ..

SETSUKO...
A CATERPILLAR IS UGLY, REPULSIVE... BUT IN TIME, IT WEAVES A CHRYSALIS AND SHUTS ITSELF INSIDE. IT DOES SO WITHOUT FEAR. WHEN IT EMERGES, IT CAN FINALLY TAKE FLIGHT AND FULFILL ITS DESTINY.
OUR DESTINY, SETSUKO! WE'LL FULFILL IT TOGETHER.
HMM...IF YOU COULD SEE THE DAWN AS I DO, SEMINARU, WOULD YOU SEE A NEW DAY?

COME, MY FALLEN SOULS!! OUR WORLD IS IN DANGER!!
A TERRIBLE THREAT WINDS ITS WAY INTO OUR REALM IF WE DON'T STOP IT IMMEDIATELY, IT WILL PULL US INTO WORLDS FROM WHICH WE CANNOT RETURN!!
COME, MY FRIENDS!! ARISE!! LET US FIGHT!!
WE CAN'T LET MY SISTER AND MERE MORTALS DESTROY THE WORLD WE HAVE CREATED— THE WORLD OF OUR DREAMS AND ETERNAL LIFE!

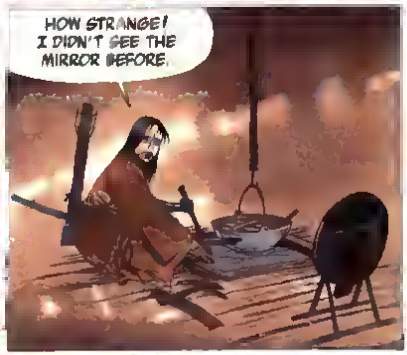
YES! WE WILL FIGHT TO DEFEND WHAT IS OURS!
WE ARE YOUR SOLDIERS YOUR SHADOWS YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND!
THEN GO! FIND THE LOVERS WHOSE DREAMS ARE FATAL TO US! KILL THEM!!

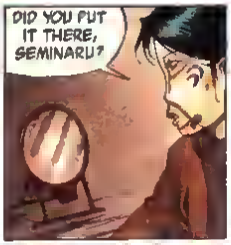
BE MERCILESS. I SHALL PRAY FOR YOUR VICTORY.
YES... AND I SHALL PRAY THAT MY SECRET WEAPON DOES ITS PART.
BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE WEAPON I TRUST, AND IT ALONE CAN SECURE VICTORY.
IT CAN BE CONFRONTED, BUT NEVER WITHOUT LOSS.
HERE WE ARE
THANK YOU, MY GUARDS. YOU MAY GO
GREETINGS, MY LOVED ONES. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP

SEMINARU, ARE YOU SURE WE HAVEN'T LOST OUR WAY?
IT'S STRANGE EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT HERE. NO BAMBOO, ONLY PINE TREES..
FROM WHAT YOU SAY, WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH. BUT WHAT'S THIS? SNOW?
YES, AND IT'S LOVELY THE ATMOSPHERE IS GENTLE, MAGICAL.. SO PURE
IT'S COLD AND TREACHEROUS, TOO. COME, WE'LL FIND SHELTER
BOM!!...
IS ANYONE THERE? CAN WE COME IN?

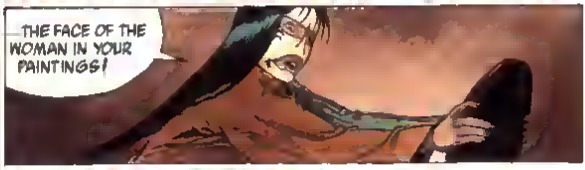
THIS HUT SEEMS DESERTED.

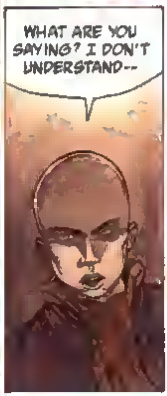
IT'S COLD I'LL FETCH SOME WOOD SO WE DON'T FREEZE TO DEATH.


HOW STRANGE! I DIDN'T SEE THE MIRROR BEFORE.


DID YOU PUT IT THERE, SEMINARU?

WHAT'S WRONG, SETSUKO? TELL ME!
I... IT CAN'T BE! INSTEAD OF MY OWN REFLECTION, I SEE...


THE FACE OF THE WOMAN IN YOUR PAINTINGS!


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I DON'T UNDERSTAND--

I'M SAYING THAT THE WOMAN IN THIS MIRROR ISN'T ME! SHE'S THE ONE YOU KEEP PAINTING!

QUICK! LETS GET OUT OF HERE! IT MUST BE A TRAP!

NO! I CAN'T JUST LEAVE!
MAYBE I WAS DREAMING? NO! IT IS HER.
SHE'S SO LOVELY...
IT'S AS THOUGH SHE'S MY REFLECTION! BUT WHY?
SETSUKO, LISTEN TO ME...
YOU'RE A PART OF ME.. JUST AS I'M A PART OF YOU
I'M A PRISONER OF THE LAKE...
FREE ME, SETSUKO
PLEASE HELP ME...
BUT WHY ME? WHO ARE YOU?
OH, NO! PLEASE STAY! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU! I WANT TO KNOW!

REFLECTIONS ARE FRAGILE I HAD SO MANY THINGS TO TELL YOU.
IF ONLY YOU KNEW...
HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE
I'M SO SORRY THAT I GAVE YOU ONLY MY DARK SIDE, THE ONE THAT HAS TO BE HIDDEN
I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO MEND THE WRONG I'VE DONE YOU
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE MY DESTINY, AND THE IRONY IS THAT I CAN'T FREE YOU IF YOU DON'T RELEASE ME FIRST...
BUT I WILL FIGHT WITH ALL MY STRENGTH SETSUKO, TO LET YOU LIVE YOUR OWN DESTINY

STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME! I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING. ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN LET GO NOW! I CAN WALK ON MY OWN
BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO LEARN NOW THAT THE MIRROR IS BROKEN. BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T! SEMINARU, DON'T PRETEND YOU CAN'T HEAR ME
ARE YOU LISTENING?
YES, SETSUKO, I'M LISTENING. I JUST WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT HUT
PLEASE, I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN WITH MY QUESTIONS
TELL ME WHO THE WOMAN IS AND WHY SHE HAUNTS YOU!
I WAS BORN BLIND, SETSUKO. I NEVER KNEW MY PARENTS. I WAS RAISED BY THE ONE I CALL "MASTER," AND HE WATCHED OVER ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD. HE TAUGHT ME TO FEEL, TO SEE MORE WITH MY SPIRIT THAN EYES CAN PERCEIVE
HE TAUGHT ME DISCERNMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE. HE SHOWED ME HOW TO DEPEND MYSELF
HE SPOKE FROM MORNING TO NIGHT, DESCRIBING WHAT I COULDN'T SEE. WITH ENDLESS PATIENCE AND KINDNESS, HE TAUGHT ME TO PAINT. AND WHEN I TURNED SIXTEEN, HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIMSELF. I KNEW HE DIDN'T BELONG TO OUR WORLD. HE TOLD ME HE WAS DWELLING AMONG US, WAITING FOR THE TIME TO ACT

HOLD ON!
ONE!
TWO!
THREE!
AND THERE YOU GO!
I'M A GENIUS! I'VE FOUND OUT HOW TO MAKE A SNOW-MAN IN RECORD TIME!
AND WITH-OUT EFFORT! HAHAA!!
TOSHIRO?! YOU? STILL IN THIS WORLD?!

THAT'S RIGHT! BUT BECAUSE I'M SMART, I'M SPENDING MY TIME DOING THINGS I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO—ENJOYING LIFE!
AND YOU? ALWAYS MINDLESSLY OBEDIENT?
IDIOTS! ITS TIME TO WAKE UP!!
KLAK!
KLAK!
KLAK!
KLAK!
STILL SLEEPING?
AH! I SEE YOU'RE PAYING ATTENTION NOW— THOUGH NOT QUITE AS INTENDED
DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU'RE DEAD? YOU'RE NOT BRAVE LITTLE SOLDIERS ANYMORE! CELEBRATE! HAVE A GOOD TIME!
IT'S YOURS, ISN'T IT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, TOSHIRO? THAT'S ENOUGH! ANOTHER WORD TO INCITE MUTINY AND I'LL KILL YOU!
MUTINY? YOU HAVEN'T UNDERSTOOD A THING! GO AHEAD! YOU'LL SEE!
HA! HA! HA! THAT'S IT! TICKLE ME! I LOVE IT!
BUT ? AREN'T YOU DEAD? WHAT CAN I DO TO SHUT YOU UP?
I'LL SHUT UP WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT
FREEDOM... IT'S GREAT
YOU SHOULD REALLY GIVE IT A TRY
BUT HAVE YOU GOT THE COURAGE TO LIVE WITHOUT ORDER?
THERE! VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! GOOD WORK, TOSHIRO!

AND YOU JUST DO WHATEVER HE SAYS--
NO, BUT I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU CAN'T FIGHT YOUR DESTINY
SHUSH! LISTEN... HURRY, LET'S HIDE
A CHILD?! THOSE MONSTERS ARE HUNTING DOWN A CHILD! I CAN'T JUST STAND BY! WE HAVE TO HELP--
STOP! THEY MAY HAVE THEIR REASONS!
REASONS? ARE YOU MAD? WHAT COULD JUSTIFY ATTACKING A CHILD?

KAZUO?
IT'S A TRAP! HALT! WHO'S THERE? COME OUT!!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! I CAN EXPLAIN EV--
AAARGH!!

YOU TOOK AIM AND SHOT WITHOUT LETTING THEM DEFEND THEMSELVES BRAVO! IS THAT WHAT MAKES US HUMAN... IMPULSIVENESS?
GO AHEAD SCORN IS CHEAPER THAN ACTION...
WHERE IS HE? HE MUST BE TERRIFIED!
HE'S JUST BEHIND US, AND I DON'T LIKE IT
THERE YOU ARE, LITTLE ONE... HOW ARE YOU? DID THEY HURT YOU?
IT'S ALL OVER. DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I WANT A MOTHER. WHY DIDN'T SHE WANT ME?
BECAUSE OF MY FACE? TELL ME, SANPEI, WAS SHE PRETTY?
AH! NO, IT CAN'T BE! DON'T... DON'T TOUCH ME!
AAH! I CAN'T BREATHE! SEMINARU! HELP ME!

WE HAVE TO RUN, SETSUKO! I FEEL DANGER HERE!
RUN? I WON'T LET YOU! FRIENDS, COME! THEY WANT TO LEAVE US!
WHAT? THEY'RE SURROUNDING US! HOW MANY ARE THERE?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR PITY! STRIKE! IT'S THEM OR US!
BUT THEY'RE ONLY CHILDREN I--
STRIKE, SETSUKO!
AAAH AHHHHAAAAAAHH!...

WE'LL NEVER MANAGE, SEMINARU! THEY THEY'RE DEMONIC!!
THERE ARE TOO MANY!!
AAAAAAAHH!!!...
WELL DONE, MY FRIENDS THEY DESERVED IT BE SURE THEY CAN'T MOVE
THANK YOU NOW GO! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
REMEMBER HOW THE CHILDREN WOULDN'T PLAY WITH YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, SETSUKO? THAT'S WHY WE'LL PLAY TODAY, THE THREE OF US YOU'LL JOIN ME IN MY WORLD
IT WILL BE LIKE PLAYING WOLF CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, OR I'LL EAT YOU
IF YOU MANAGE, YOU CAN GO FREE IF YOU DON'T, YOU'RE MINE, AND YOU'LL STAY IN MY WORLD FOREVER
CHILD OF LIGHT, CHILD OF PAIN...
...WHAT FRAGMENT OF YOUR SUFFERING REMAINS?

CAN'T MEMORY CAST ASIDE THE THINGS NOW LOST TO TIME?
HEY, SEMINARU! YOU'RE A CHILD AGAIN! LOOK HOW CUTE YOU ARE!
OF COURSE. HADN'T YOU NOTICED?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, THOUGH, NOT EVEN YOUR FACE!
C'MON, I DARE YOU TO TAKE OFF THE MASK!
HA! YOU'LL JUST HAVE NIGHTMARES IF I DO!
BUT.. SEMINARU! YOU CAN SEE?!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT THINGS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, BUT NOT LIKE I IMAGINED
IT'S TOO BAD THAT I CAN'T TRUST MY EYES. THIS IS ALL AN ILLUSION
BUT ILLUSION OR NOT, I CAN LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND ME FOR THE FIRST TIME
NO MATTER HOW FLEETING, THESE IMAGES WILL HAUNT MY NIGHTS WHEN I RETURN
DON'T CRY, SEMINARU YOU'RE NOT ALONE
LET'S FIND THE CHILD WHO'S DOING THIS TO YOU

I DON'T LIKE THIS GAME I'M SURE HE'S NEARBY
IT'S SO LOVELY
OVER THERE, SETSUKO?!
I SAW HIM! HE WAS RIGHT THERE!
I— I DON'T SEE HIM!
BEHIND US!
HE'S PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE! COME! LET'S TAKE THE PATH! WE'LL TRY TO GET AWAY
HE'S GETTING CLOSE! HURRY, SETSUKO, HE'S CATCHING UP!
BUT I CAN'T RUN ANY FASTER!

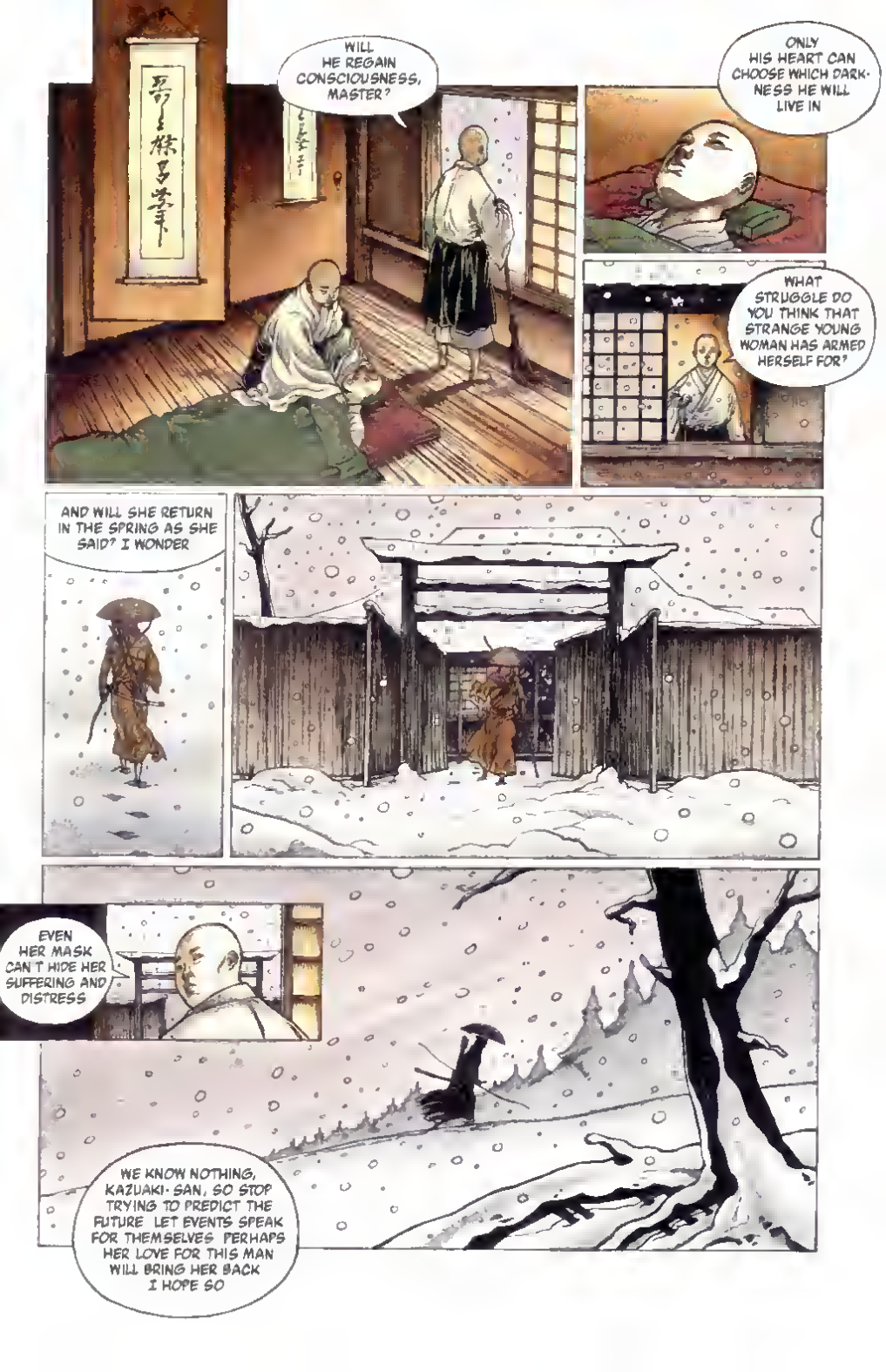
NO! NO, SEMINARU!
SETSUKO! DON'T! IT'S ME!
HE'S LYING! I'M SEMINARU
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM IT'S ME
OH! GIVE ME A SIGN! WHICH OF YOU--
HIM!
STOP!

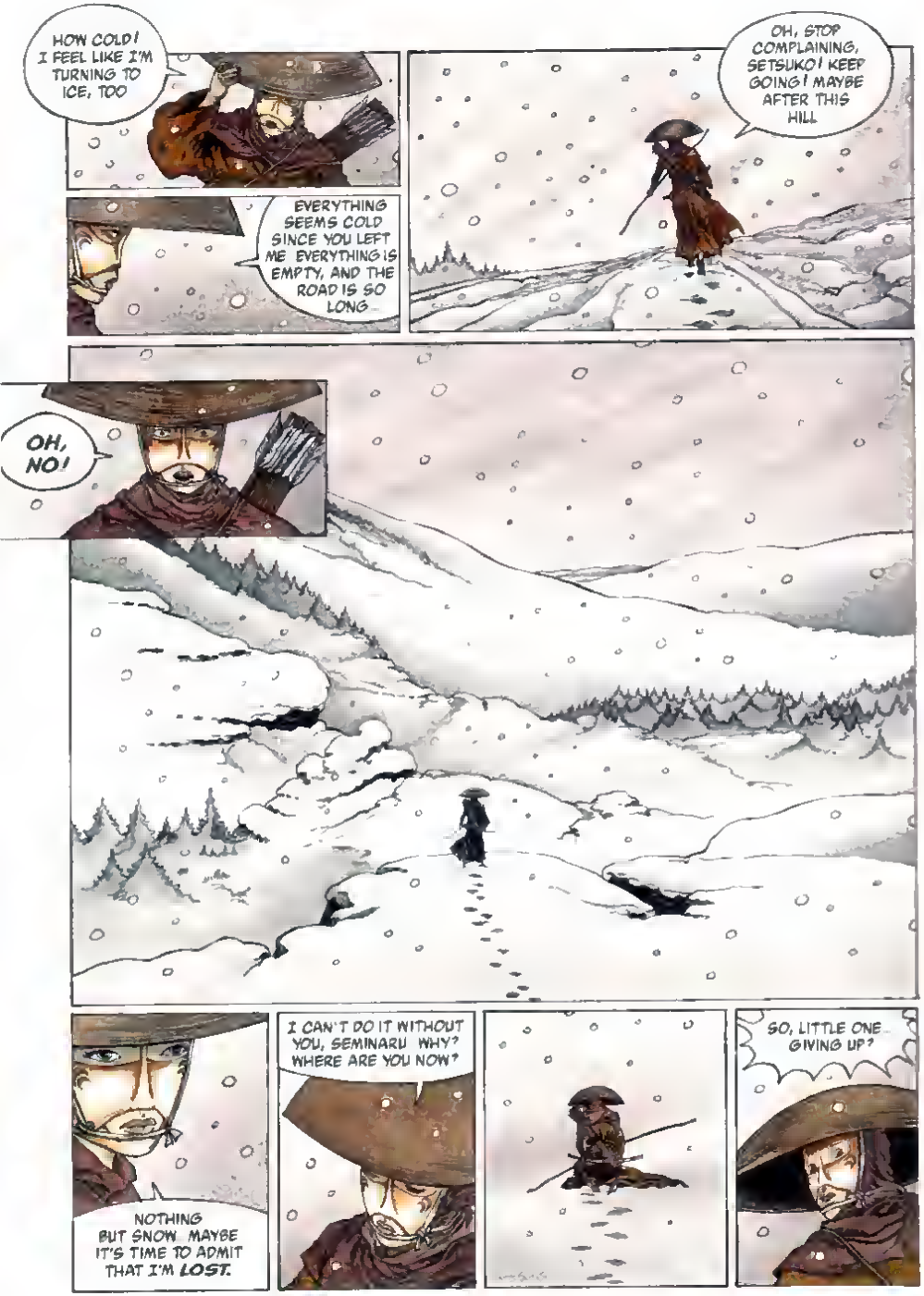
SEMINARU!!
GIVE ME A SIGN! AAAH! I CAN'T TELL--!
I CAN'T HOLD--! YOU'RE TOO HEAVY!!
SETSUKO, DON'T LET GO!
HE'S A LIAR! I PROMISE!
I CAN'T HOLD ON! OH! SEMINARU, FORGIVE ME, BUT I CAN'T DECIDE--
SETSUKO! DON'T ABANDON ME!!
NOOO!!

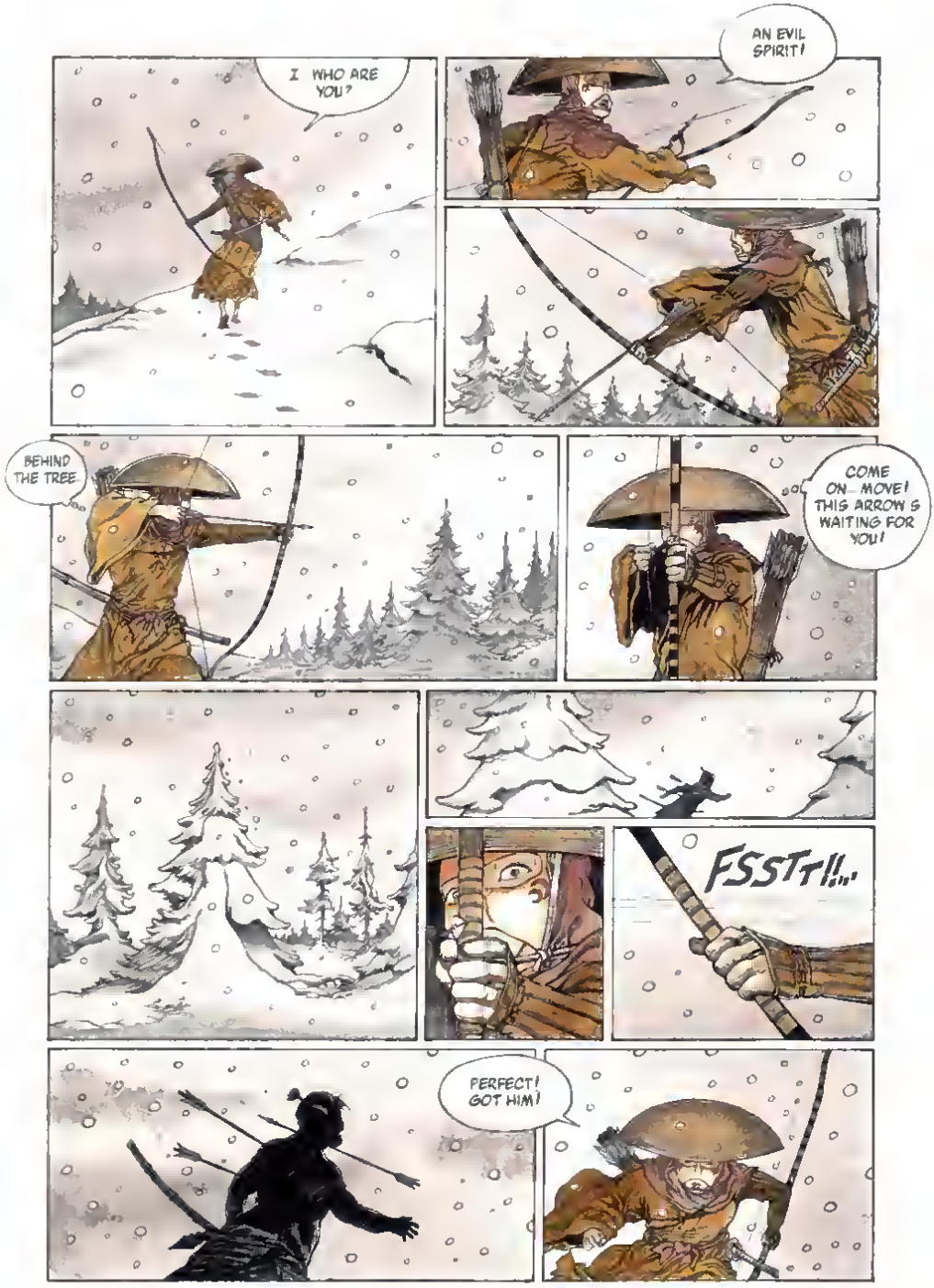
SNOW! WHAT A RELIEF... WE ESCAPED THAT NIGHTMARE.
IT'S SO COLD! SEMINARU!
WHERE ARE YOU? CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
AH! THERE YOU ARE! I WAS WORRIED!
SEMINARU... WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SO PALE... PALE AS DEATH
TOO COLD EVERYTHING INSIDE ME IS FROZEN I CAN'T STAND THE DARKNESS
I COULD SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THERE AND WITH THOSE OF OTHERS HOW CAN I COME BACK?
WILL YOU EVER UNDERSTAND ?

TAKESHI! MY LITTLE ONE YOU'RE BACK
I... I PLAYED THE GAME AND LOST. I KNOW I COULD HAVE WON
YES, BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW I SHOULD HAVE SENT SOMEONE ELSE
NO! GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE! PLEASE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. COME HERE, CHILD
YOU'RE JUST A CHILD, TAKESHI, EVEN IF THE LITTLE ONES SEE YOU AS THEIR LEADER I DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.
BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO FAILED
YOU'RE BACK, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS. YOU COULD HAVE RUN OFF, AND I WOULD HAVE LOST YOU. I LOVE YOU LIKE THE SON I NEVER HAD
BUT THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO BE PROUD OF ME

YOU HAVE TO REST NOW
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
CAN'T I GO BACK TO THE OTHERS?
NOT YET, TAKESHI... FIRST, I WANT YOU TO LEARN HOW PAINFUL FAILURE CAN BE
NO! NO! NOT THERE!!
THINK ABOUT IT!
DON'T! PLEASE DON'T!
CLACK!..
WH--! NO! GO AWAY! LADY AKANE, COME BACK! I'M SCARED!
NO! STOP! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! NOOO!
YOU MUST, TAKESHI. WHY DID YOU LET ME DOWN?
ONLY THE STRONGEST SURVIVE. LOOK AT WHAT AWAITS US - THE BEYOND WE REFUSE TO ENTER IT'S APPROACHING BECAUSE OF YOU!


WILL HE REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS, MASTER?
ONLY HIS HEART CAN CHOOSE WHICH DARKNESS HE WILL LIVE IN
WHAT STRUGGLE DO YOU THINK THAT STRANGE YOUNG WOMAN HAS ARMED HERSELF FOR?
AND WILL SHE RETURN IN THE SPRING AS SHE SAID? I WONDER
EVEN HER MASK CAN'T HIDE HER SUFFERING AND DISTRESS
WE KNOW NOTHING, KAZUAKI-SAN, SO STOP TRYING TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. LET EVENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. PERHAPS HER LOVE FOR THIS MAN WILL BRING HER BACK. I HOPE SO.

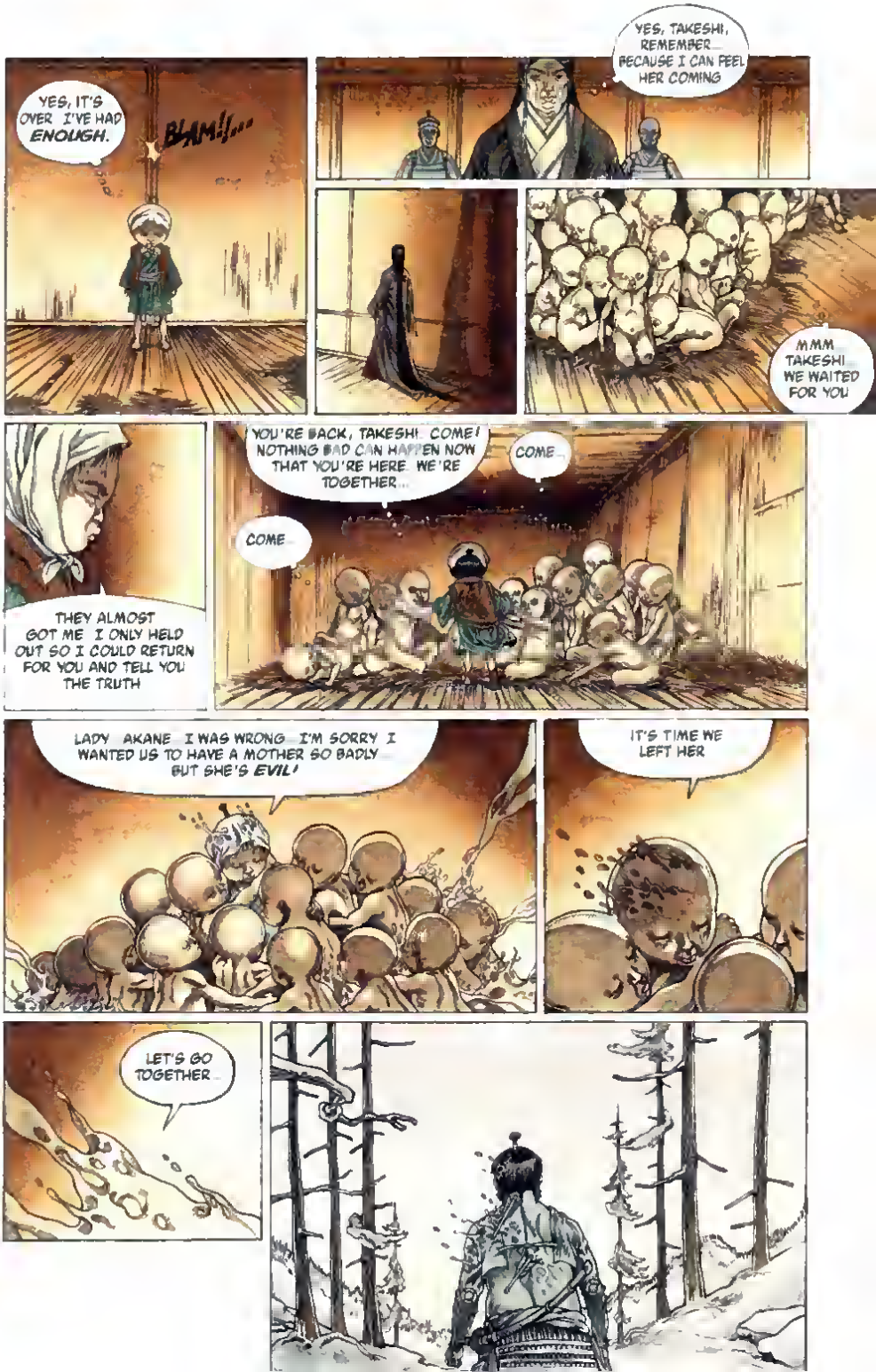

HOW COLD! I FEEL LIKE I'M TURNING TO ICE, TOO
EVERYTHING SEEMS COLD SINCE YOU LEFT ME. EVERYTHING IS EMPTY, AND THE ROAD IS SO LONG...
OH, STOP COMPLAINING, SETSUKO! KEEP GOING! MAYBE AFTER THIS HILL
OH, NO!
NOTHING BUT SNOW. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO ADMIT THAT I'M LOST.
I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU, SEMINARU. WHY? WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
SO, LITTLE ONE... GIVING UP?


I WHO ARE YOU?
AN EVIL SPIRIT!
BEHIND THE TREE
COME ON... MOVE! THIS ARROW IS WAITING FOR YOU!
FSSTT!!..
PERFECT! GOT HIM!

HE SHOULD BE HERE!
BUT . ? WHERE IS HIS BODY?
HM I GUESS IT TAKES MORE THAN THAT TO KILL A GHOST!
HA HA HA! CATCHING ON, LITTLE WARRIOR GIRL?
AH, WOMEN! ALWAYS WANTING TO PLAY WITH STICKS LIKE BOYS!
COME OUT AND FIGHT!
BOOOO!
HA HA HA!!!
ENOUGH FUN AND GAMES, SETSUKO!
YOU... YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
YES, SETSUKO AND YOU WANT TO FIND THE CASTLE OF AMADA, DON'T YOU?

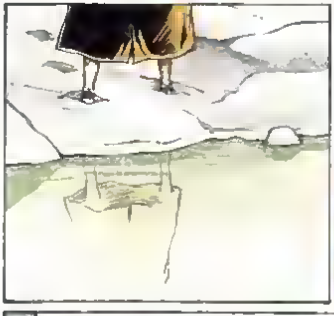
WHO ARE YOU, DEMON?
TOSHIRO IKEDA THE THIRD, FRIEND OF SEMINARU! AT YOUR SERVICE, BEAUTIFUL.
SEMINARU FRIEND OF A GHOST? AND YOU KNOW THE CASTLE OF AMADA?
LET'S STOP THE SMALL TALK, GIRL. AND PUT YOUR STICK AWAY...YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT. FOLLOW ME

NEVER! STOP! I CAN HURT YOU, TOO! THERE!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME! I WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT MY FRIENDS! GO AWAY!
OPEN UP, LADY AKANE! I CAN'T STAND IT! AAAAAH!! PLEASE LET ME OUT!
BOM! BOM!!
THEY'RE TEARING AT ME! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!
LADY...
SO, YOU SURVIVED THE TRIAL OF THE SACRED TEXTS
HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD WHAT LIES AHEAD IF YOU LOSE US?
I TREATED YOU LIKE A SON, TAKESHI I TOOK YOU IN AND CARED FOR YOU, BUT YOU DID NOTHING TO PROTECT OUR WORLD YOU HAD TO LEARN A LESSON
NOW, GO BACK TO THE OTHERS I'LL THINK OF HOW YOU CAN MAKE AMENDS...
IT'S ALL OVER NOW...


YES, IT'S OVER I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
BAM!!...
YES, TAKESHI, REMEMBER... BECAUSE I CAN FEEL HER COMING
MMM... TAKESHI... WE WAITED FOR YOU
THEY ALMOST GOT ME I ONLY HELD OUT SO I COULD RETURN FOR YOU AND TELL YOU THE TRUTH
YOU'RE BACK, TAKESHI! COME! NOTHING BAD CAN HAPPEN NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE WE'RE TOGETHER...
COME...
COME...
LADY AKANE I WAS WRONG I'M SORRY I WANTED US TO HAVE A MOTHER SO BADLY BUT SHE'S EVIL!
IT'S TIME WE LEFT HER
LET'S GO TOGETHER...

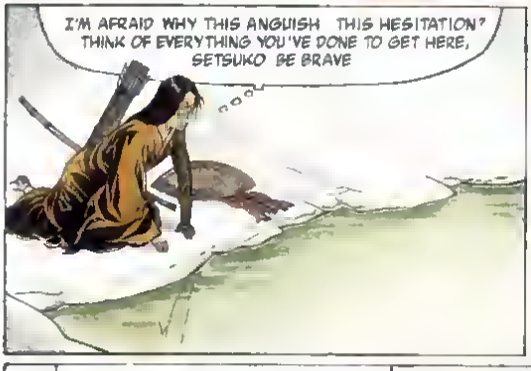
WHEW! I'M TOO ROMANTIC ALL THIS FOR LOVE I KNOW IT NEEDS A PUSH FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THIS IS WEARING ME OUT.
AH, THERE IT IS! THE CASTLE OF AMADA.

AREN'T YOU COMING? HE'S GONE...
WELL, THEN... THANKS, TOSHIRO! I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN ONE DAY
THIS QUIET IS EERIE NO GUARDIAN SPIRITS, NO NOISE... NOTHING! AND YET PEOPLE SAY NOBODY COMES BACK ALIVE
WATCH OUT, SETSUKO! CAREFUL...



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT THE LAKE! I MADE IT!

THE WATER! WHAT WILL HAPPEN? LET'S SEE IF DREAMS AND REALITY CAN BECOME ONE


I'M AFRAID WHY THIS ANGUISH THIS HESITATION? THINK OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO GET HERE, SETSUKO BE BRAVE

WHAT--?

NOTHING!! OH, NO! THIS CAN'T BE TRUE! ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING FOR NOTHING?!

FOOL! YOU EVEN SACRIFICED THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE!

IT ISN'T FAIR...
WH--?
BY ALL THE KAMI, SETSUKO, MOVE!
NICE WORK, ISN'T IT? TWO MONKS GAVE IT TO ME!

QUICK!
SORRY THAT I CAN'T STAY, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN VERY WELCOMING EITHER!
I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DISAPPEAR...
...AND IT WON'T BE EASY WITH THE TRACKS I'M MAKING
OH, NO! IT CAN'T BE!
IF I COULD JUST VANISH INTO THIN AIR LIKE THE SPIRITS...

NO!!
WHAT?!
MISSED?
UH . CAN ONE OF YOU EXPLAIN--?

WHAT DID I GET MYSELF INTO?

UH... I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH. I WAS ABOUT TO GO WHEN--
YOU!!
NASTY LITTLE DEMON! HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH HARM?!
I MUST BE GOING MAD! WHY DID YOU JUST SAVE ME?
WE APOLOGIZE. WE CAME TO MAKE AMENDS AND HELP YOU.
DO WHAT I TOLD YOU, FRIENDS! I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU
COME, SETSUKO. PLEASE TRUST ME... I HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO TELL YOU
HELLO, SETSUKO. MY NAME IS TAKESHI. CAN WE MAKE PEACE?

WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY! AND WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO THE LAKE OF LOST SOULS I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY, AND I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT YOUR FRIEND I WAS FOLLOWING AKANE'S ORDERS I THOUGHT SHE LOVED US, BUT WE WERE JUST HER PAWNS SO WE'VE DECIDED TO HELP YOU AND THEN GO
WHO IS AKANE?
OH! WHAT A STRANGE PLACE! IT'S BEAUTIFUL. WHY ARE SACRED TEXTS IN THAT TREE?
TO PREVENT SPIRITS LIKE US FROM APPROACHING THE MAGICAL WATERS AND PRINCESS ORIN
ORIN? MAGIC WATERS...?

THE WATERS OF THE LAKE ARE NOTHING BUT A TRAP TO CAPTURE THE TORMENTED SOULS OF THOSE BOUND TO SERVE AKANE, ORIN'S SISTER
THE LAKE'S STRENGTH IS IN ITS POWER OF ILLUSION
THOSE WHO DRINK FROM IT UPON DEATH RETURN TO THE LIVES OF THEIR DREAMS, NOT THE ONES FORCED UPON THEM.
BUT IF THEY DON'T RECEIVE ITS WATER REGULARLY, THEY CROSS OVER INTO THE BEYOND **NOTHING** IS REAL HERE
THAT'S HOW MY FRIENDS AND I BECAME HER "CHILDREN"
BUT A MOTHER DOESN'T ASK HER CHILDREN TO **KILL**, DOES SHE? SHE WOULDN'T USE SACRED TEXTS TO PUNISH THEIR MISTAKES, WOULD SHE?
THE ONLY ONE WITH POWER OVER PRINCESS ORIN AND THE WATERS OF THE LAKE IS AKANE HOW? WHY? NO ONE KNOWS - AND SHE WON'T TELL
SO WE DECIDED TO LEAVE, NO MATTER WHAT LIES AHEAD BUT FIRST I WANTED TO MAKE GOOD FOR WHAT I DID TO YOU - AND SO...

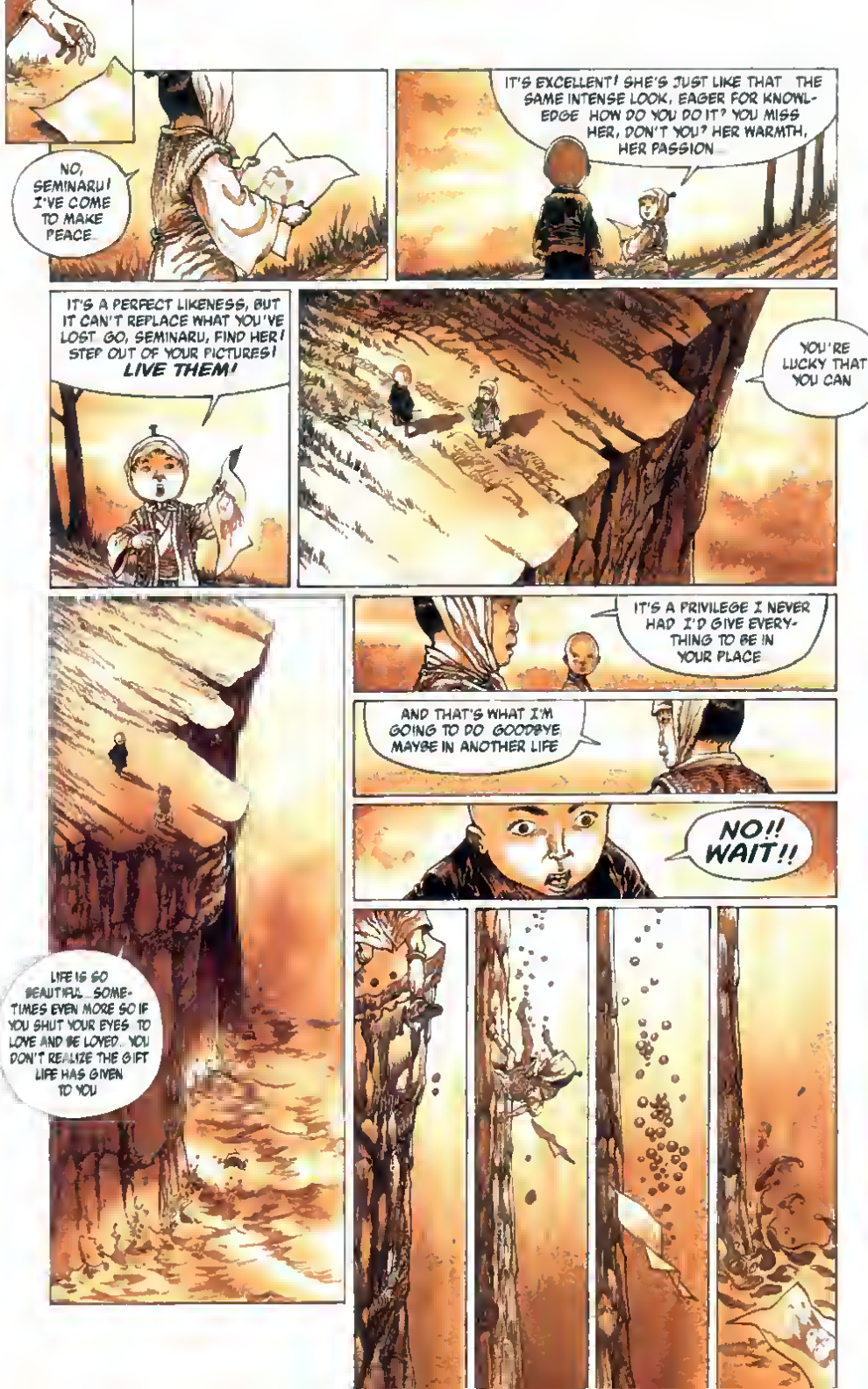
TAKE MY HAND, SETSUKO I MUST CLOSE MY EYES
AKANE TAKES US TO THE WATER BY A SECRET PASSAGEWAY I CAN'T TAKE THIS PATH ALONE
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, TAKESHI WE'LL MANAGE TOGETHER
BUT... IT'S A CAVE!
ALL THESE GRAVES! TAKESHI, WHERE ARE WE?

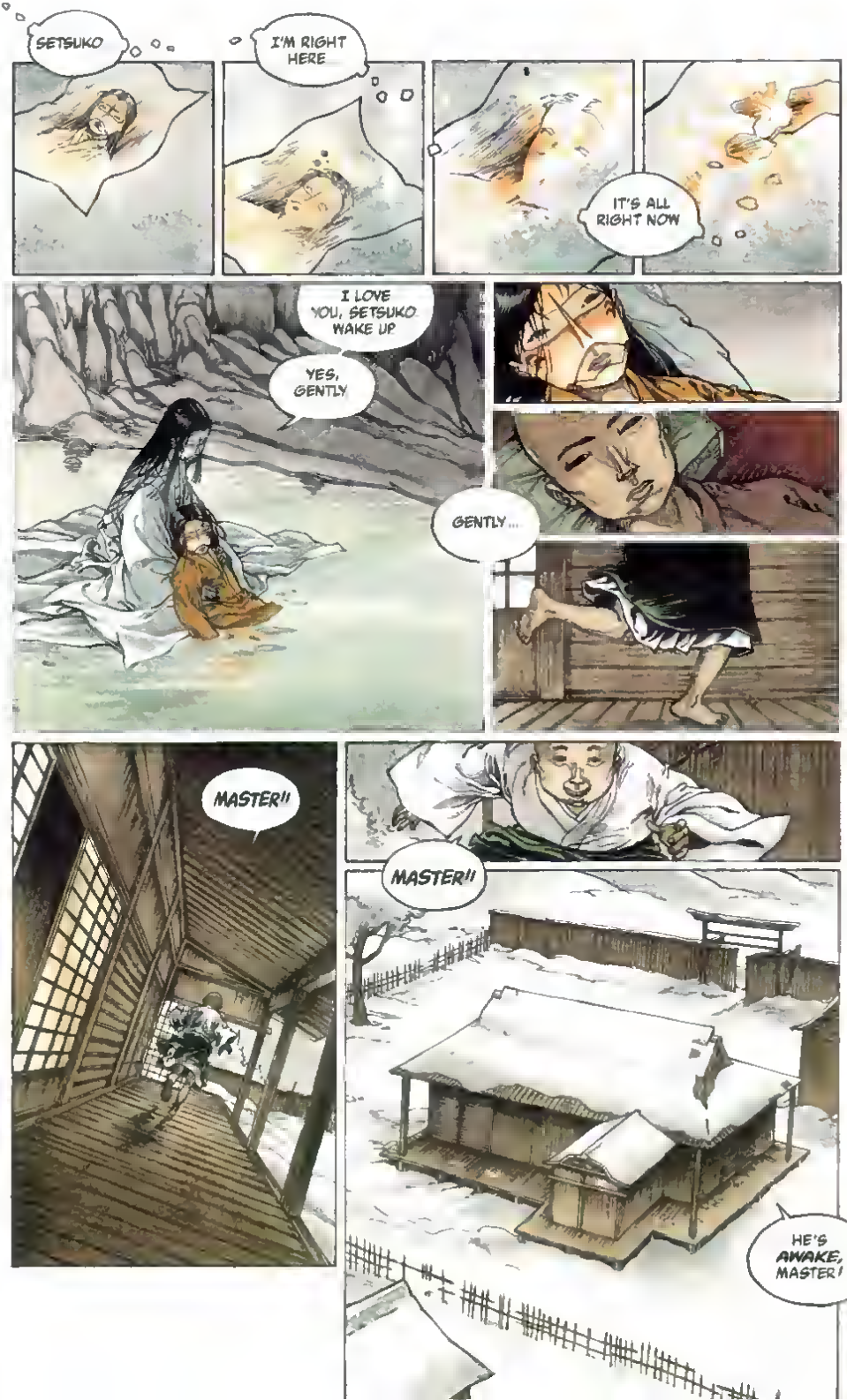
LET'S STOP HERE, SETSUKO I CAN'T GO ON
NOW TELL ME WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE TOMB-STONES
WH--?
TAKESHI?
TAKESHI?!
THE WATER IS RISING..?
AAAH! NO!
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED HIM

NO, I HAVEN'T ABANDONED YOU
WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

A DEAD END?!
I CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER, TAKESHI!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE WATER! NOW!!
THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THIS IS THE PLACE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, SETSUKO IT'S MY FAREWELL GIFT I HAVE TO GO I'M NOT ALLOWED TO BE HERE, AND I HAVE ONE THING LEFT TO DO..
I HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR I'M GLAD I MET YOU YOU RE BEAUTIFUL, SETSUKO...
GOOD LUCK AND-- AARGL! FORGIVE ME!
I I NEED AIR

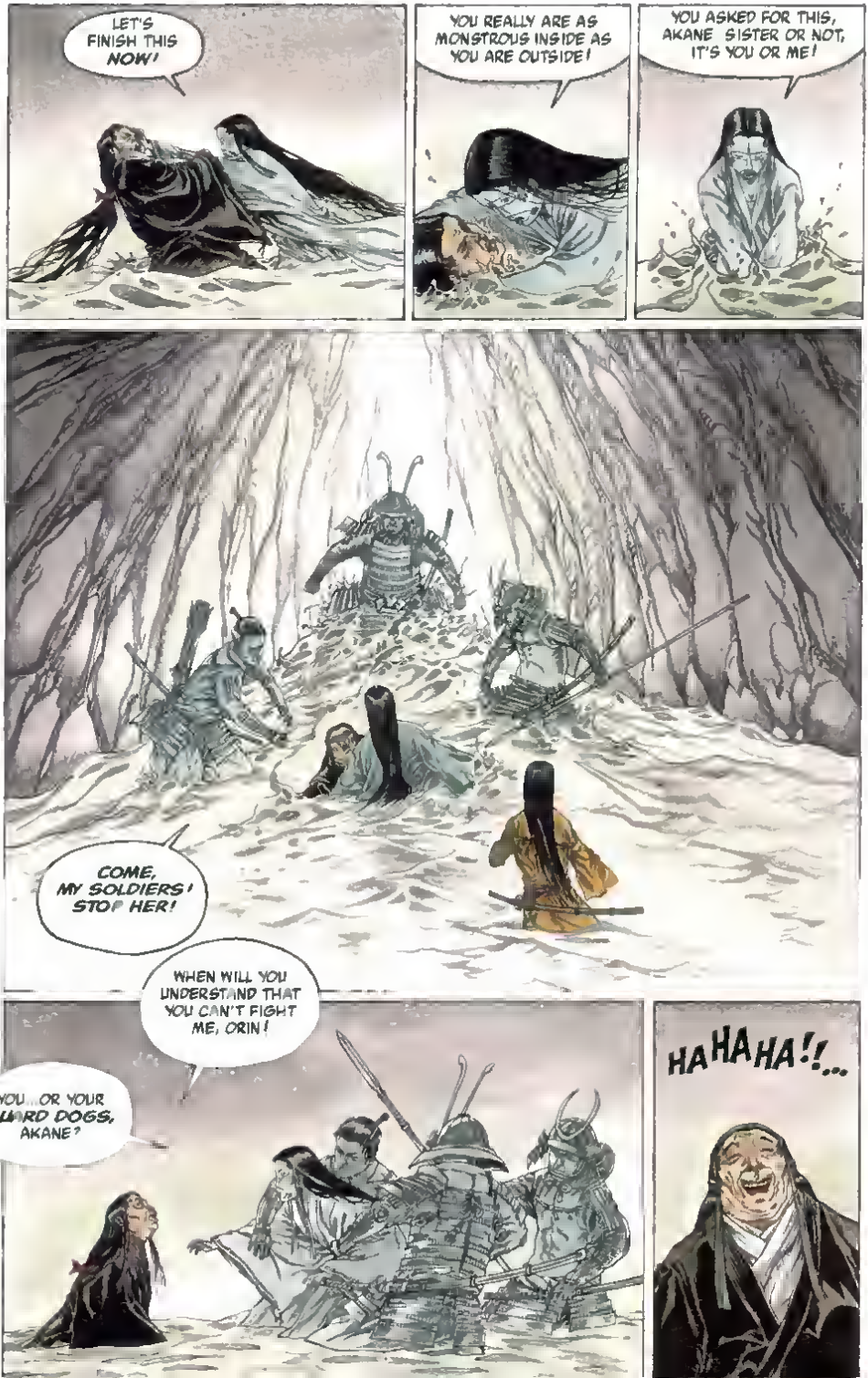
ARE THOSE BUBBLES? WH--?
HEH HEH HEH!
I'M BACK, SEMINARU!
NOT A STEP CLOSER! YOU FILTHY RAT, I--
I KNOW, I KNOW. SETSUKO SAID THE SAME THING OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HER?
DON'T YOU DARE SAY HER NAME AGAIN, YOU RUNT! IF YOU'RE HERE TO PROVOKE ME, YOU BETTER WATCH OUT!


NO, SEMINARU! I'VE COME TO MAKE PEACE
IT'S EXCELLENT! SHE'S JUST LIKE THAT THE SAME INTENSE LOOK, EAGER FOR KNOWLEDGE HOW DO YOU DO IT? YOU MISS HER, DON'T YOU? HER WARMTH, HER PASSION
IT'S A PERFECT LIKENESS, BUT IT CAN'T REPLACE WHAT YOU'VE LOST GO, SEMINARU, FIND HER! STEP OUT OF YOUR PICTURES! LIVE THEM!
YOU'RE LUCKY THAT YOU CAN
IT'S A PRIVILEGE I NEVER HAD I'D GIVE EVERYTHING TO BE IN YOUR PLACE
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO GOODBYE MAYBE IN ANOTHER LIFE
NO!! WAIT!!
LIFE IS SO BEAUTIFUL... SOMETIMES EVEN MORE SO IF YOU SHUT YOUR EYES TO LOVE AND BE LOVED. YOU DON'T REALIZE THE GIFT LIFE HAS GIVEN TO YOU


SETSUKO
I'M RIGHT HERE
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW
I LOVE YOU, SETSUKO WAKE UP
YES, GENTLY
GENTLY...
MASTER!!
MASTER!!
HE'S AWAKE, MASTER!

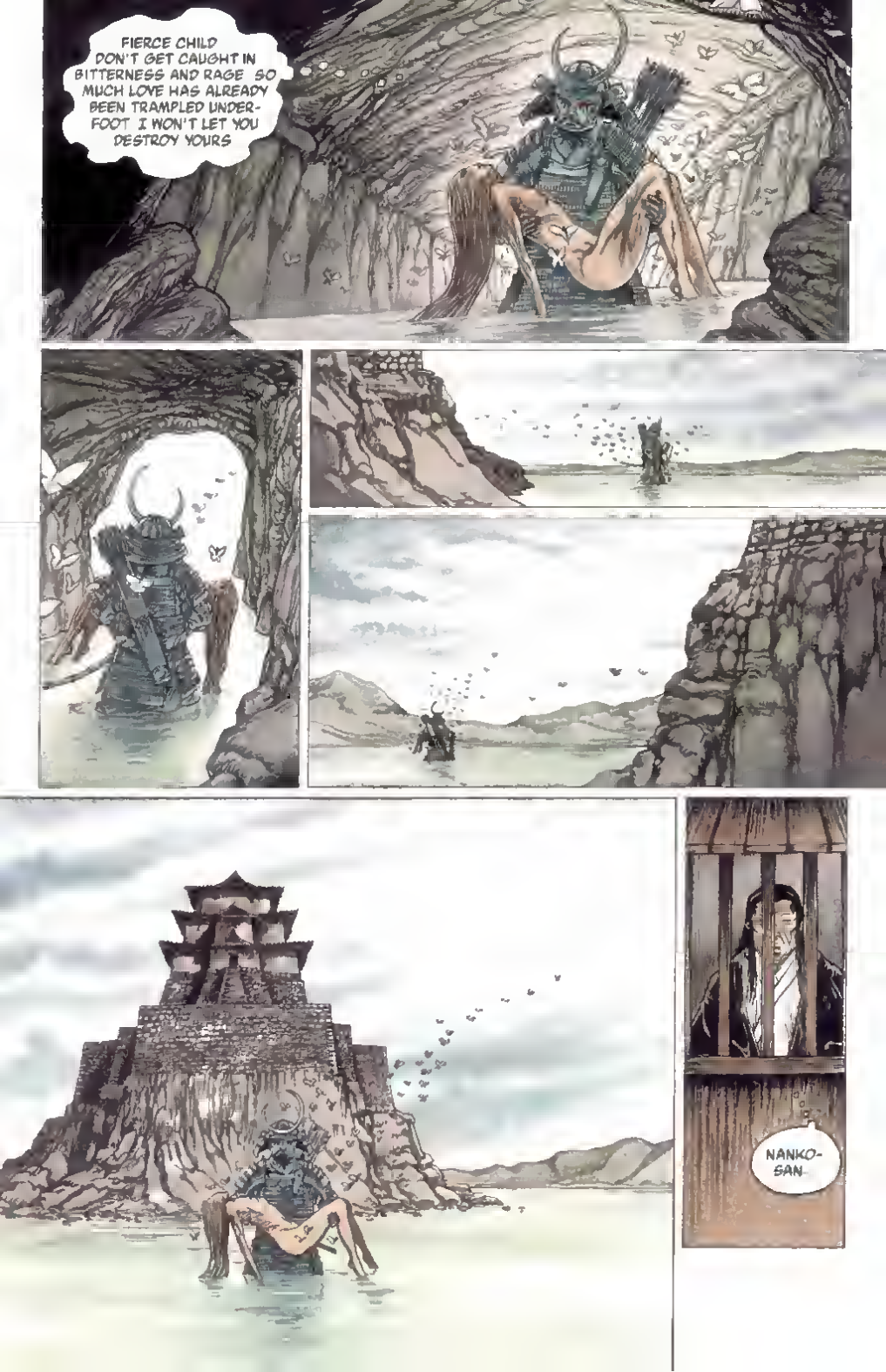
THERE YOU ARE MY ONE HOPE. AM I DREAMING? BEAUTY CONCEALED BY A MASK. SO MUCH SUFFERING
AND ALL BECAUSE OF ME
HOPES AND DREAMS REDUCED TO NIGHTMARES. BUT YOU'VE GIVEN ME FAITH. I LIVED BY AND FOR MY BEAUTY ALONE. WHEN IT WAS DESTROYED, I LOST ALL REASON TO LIVE. DEATH GAVE ME THE ILLUSION OF BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO LIFE THROUGH YOU.
YOU WERE BORN INCOMPLETE, BUT WITH A WILL TO LIVE AND TO BE LOVED SO INTENSE THAT YOU GAVE IT TO ME
DESPITE ALL THE SUFFERING, YOU RESTORED MY HOPE. YOU STRUGGLED TO COME TO ME
BUT IT WAS WORTH THE PAIN. I FOUND YOU
THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING, EVEN IF I DON'T DESERVE IT
NO, YOU CERTAINLY DON'T DESERVE IT

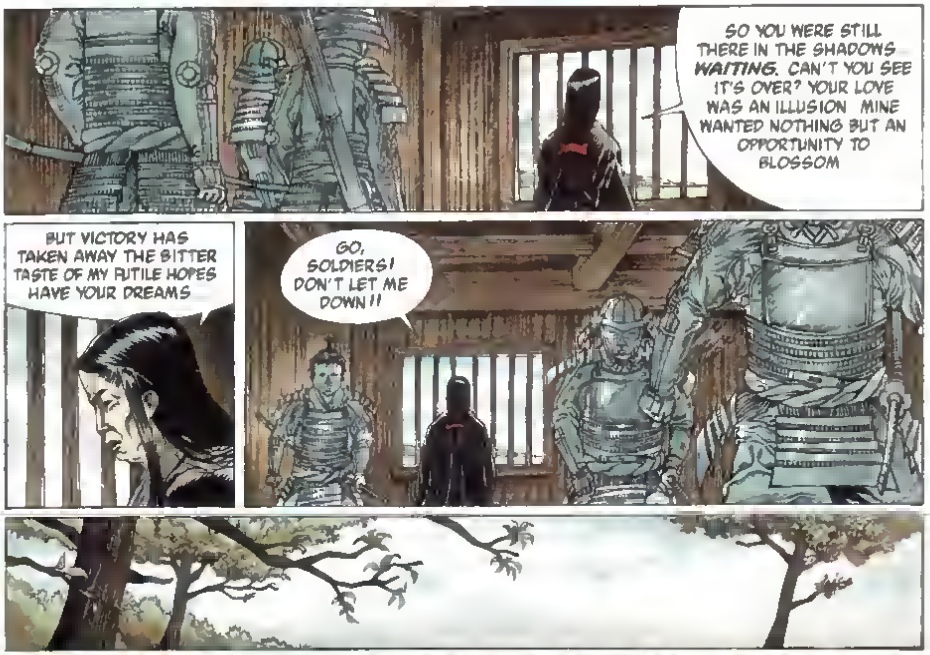
WELL, DEAR SISTER, WON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME?
AKANE?
GO AWAY!
MMM... OH, YES! THE SIMILARITY IS QUITE TROUBLING!
ESPECIALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY BLOOD TIES!
WHAT?
THAT'S ENOUGH, AKANE! NOT ANOTHER WORD--
WHY, ORIN? YOU CAN'T START SUCH A NICE RELATION-SHIP WITH LIES!
ESPECIALLY WHEN THIS COURAGEOUS YOUNG WOMAN RISKED HER LIFE FOR THE TRUTH
OR SHALL I REVEAL THE TRUTH FOR YOU?
DON'T LAY A HAND ON HER! I FORBID IT!!


LET'S FINISH THIS NOW!
YOU REALLY ARE AS MONSTROUS INSIDE AS YOU ARE OUTSIDE!
YOU ASKED FOR THIS, AKANE. SISTER OR NOT, IT'S YOU OR ME!
COME, MY SOLDIERS! STOP HER!
WHEN WILL YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN'T FIGHT ME, ORIN!
YOU...OR YOUR GUARD DOGS, AKANE?
HAHAHA!?...

WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME! IF YOU WON'T TELL HER THE TRUTH--
NO, I HAVE TO DO IT
WHAT DID SHE MEAN? NO BLOOD TIES?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN, SETSUKO, BUT YOU'RE A PART OF ME...THE BEST PART... YOUR MOTHER WAS KILLED BY AKANE!
HMN... BE PRECISE YOU WANTED TO INCARNATE YOURSELF IN A NEWBORN...
TO REGAIN THE BEAUTY AND LIFE YOU HAD ABANDONED. I RUINED IT! YOU REMAINED A PRISONER OF THE LAKE BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T GIVE UP YOUR ILLUSIONS. YOU WERE NEVER MY PRISONER, ORIN, BUT THE CAPTIVE OF YOUR OWN DESIRES
STOP! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
YOU WANTED TO POSSESS MY BODY? BECAUSE OF YOU, MY MOTHER, AN INNOCENT WOMAN, WAS ASSASSINATED. YOU DESTROYED MY LIFE TO RECOVER YOUR BEAUTY! I CURSE YOU!
I CURSE YOU!
THEN IT ALL ENDS HERE WITHOUT YOUR FORGIVENESS

I SHALL REMAIN A PRISONER FOREVER. BUT TAKE A FINAL GIFT AS MY APOLOGY. IT'S ALL I CAN GIVE YOU.
AND I UNDERSTAND, SETSUKO. I CURSE MYSELF AS WELL. AND BECAUSE OF THIS, I CANNOT LEAVE.
FAREWELL, SETSUKO. BE HAPPY. TRY TO FORGET.
YOU'VE ACCEPTED YOUR FATE AT LAST. GO AHEAD! LASH OUT! YOU'RE POWERLESS NOW!
THE MOST DIFFICULT BATTLE HAS JUST BEEN WON. LET'S FINISH THIS WAR ONCE AND FOR ALL!


FIERCE CHILD DON'T GET CAUGHT IN BITTERNESS AND RAGE SO MUCH LOVE HAS ALREADY BEEN TRAMPLED UNDER-FOOT I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY YOURS
NANKO-SAN

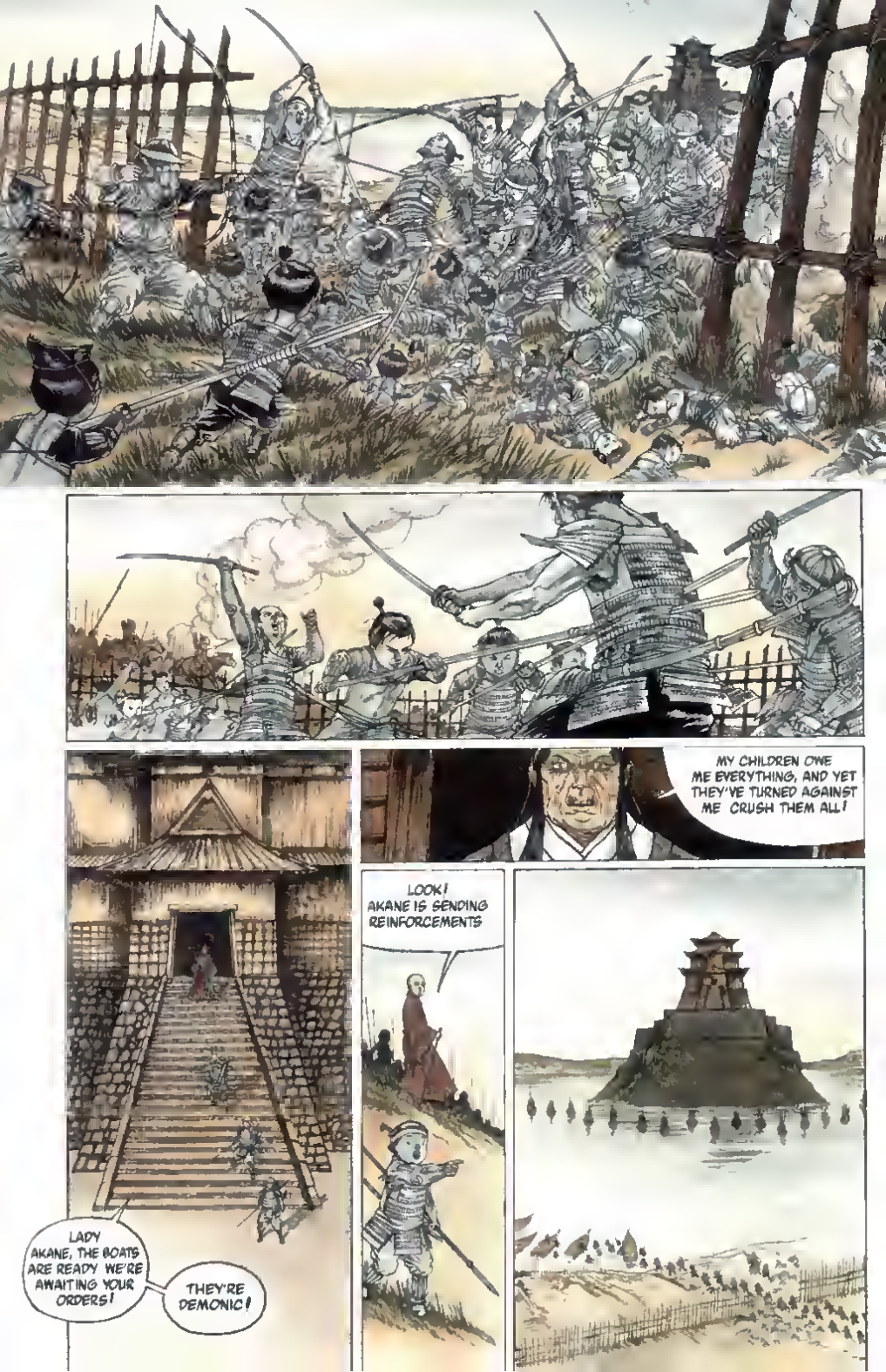

SO YOU WERE STILL THERE IN THE SHADOWS *WAITING*. CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S OVER? YOUR LOVE WAS AN ILLUSION MINE WANTED NOTHING BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO BLOSSOM
BUT VICTORY HAS TAKEN AWAY THE BITTER TASTE OF MY FUTILE HOPES HAVE YOUR DREAMS
GO, SOLDIERS! DON'T LET ME DOWN!!

BUT...? MY MASK?
A FACE! I HAVE A FACE, A NOSE, CHEEKS! MY SKIN! IT'S SO SOFT
YES, BUT IT ISN'T YOURS
SHE GAVE YOU WHAT SHE VALUED MOST...THE CAUSE OF ALL HER PAIN. YET YOU ALREADY HAD WHAT SHE LACKED...A WISH TO LIVE...AND DREAMS OF LOVE THAT HAVE SINCE TURNED TO PRIDE AND ANGER. WILL YOU BE THE SLAVE OF YOUR BEAUTY AS WELL? A BEAUTY THAT CAN ONLY FADE?
ENOUGH! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! YOU WANT ME TO FORGIVE HER...TO FORGET THAT SHE DISFIGURED ME AND KILLED MY MOTHER!
ORIN ONCE PROMISED WE WOULD FIND EACH OTHER. SHE HAS IMPRISONED HERSELF OUT OF GUILT AND LOVE FOR YOU. SHE HAS NEGLECTED OUR LOVE TO WAIT FOR YOU
ONLY YOUR FORGIVENESS CAN GIVE HER PEACE. YOU ALONE CAN RELEASE THE LOST SOULS. ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT
THERE, SETSUKO. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE OF THAT MUCH LOVE? MAYBE A PRETTY FACE IS ALL THAT YOU NEED?

STOP! YOU CAN'T JUST GO LIKE THAT!
SETSUKO? IS THAT REALLY YOU?
OF COURSE! I KNOW, I HAVE A FACE NOW, BUT
SO? SWEET FACE OR NOT, WHAT MATTERS IS THE BATTLE AHEAD HURRY AND GET DRESSED!
GIRLS ALL THEY THINK ABOUT IS BEAUTY, EVEN IN THE WORST OF TIMES.
BUT BUT WHY SHOULD I PUT ON ARMOR? I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF ALL THIS--
BECAUSE GIRL, IF YOU START A WAR, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IT TOO
TOSHIRO! YOU'RE HERE! I--
NOW DON'T GET EMOTIONAL I CAME BECAUSE IM A WARRIOR AND YOU RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD! FOR SEMINARU AND YOUR BROKEN LOVE

YOUR ARMY IS READY, SETSUKO A LAST GIFT FROM TAKESHI!

WHY ARE WE GOING TO WAR? AND AGAINST WHO? ALL THESE ARMED CHILDREN! IT MAKES NO SENSE.
YOU'RE RIGHT I DON'T SEE THE SENSE OF IT EITHER BUT WHO STARTED IT ALL?
ASK THEM THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR
SEMINARU? IS THIS ANOTHER ILLUSION?
YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE ALIVE! IT IS YOU! YOU'RE ALIVE!
I'M SO HAPPY! DON'T LEAVE ME AGAIN, SEMINARU! NEVER!
IT'S ALL OVER I FOUND ANSWERS, BUT NOT THE ONES I EXPECTED AND NOW I REGRET IT
I ALMOST LOST YOU, THE ONLY THING WORTH FIGHTING FOR ALL I GAINED WAS A FACE
A FACE? YOU DON'T NEED ONE, SETSUKO IS THAT REALLY YOU? I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING, AND I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO TRUST THEM IS THIS ANOTHER TRAP? YOUR VOICE IS FAMILIAR, BUT YOU COULD BE ANYBODY
WHERE IS THE FIERCE DETERMINATION OF THE ONE I LOVE, HER WARMTH AND READINESS TO CONQUER ALL? I FEEL ONLY THE EMPTINESS AND CHILL OF A HOLLOW SOUL
AND YET THE RESEMBLANCE IS STRIKING PLEASE RETURN HER TO ME WE'LL GO AND LEAVE YOU IN PEACE
SO YOU'RE LOST TO ME AGAIN...
...AND THIS TIME IT HURTS MUCH MORE ALL RIGHT, THIS IS WHERE WE PART TAKE CARE, SEMINARU GOODBYE


MY CHILDREN OWE ME EVERYTHING, AND YET THEY'VE TURNED AGAINST ME CRUSH THEM ALL!
LOOK! AKANE IS SENDING REINFORCEMENTS
LADY AKANE, THE BOATS ARE READY WE'RE AWAITING YOUR ORDERS!
THEY'RE DEMONIC!

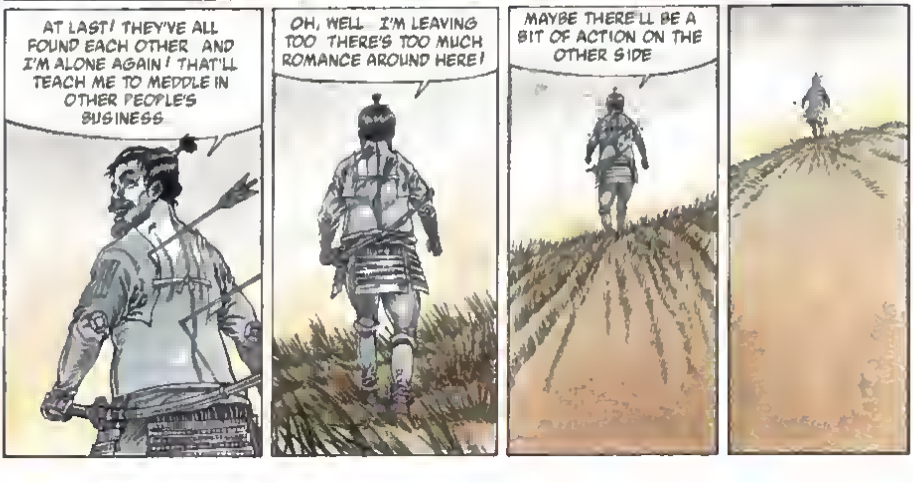
EVEN YOU... THE WARMTH OF THIS LAST FLAME IS FADING. THE ILLUSION OF COMPLETION... ALL THINGS SHATTERED IN A BITTER AWAKENING... WITH NO ROOM FOR LOVE. THAT TOO WAS A DREAM, AND WE COULDN'T RESIST IT. WHAT REMAINS NOW? SHARDS OF THE PAST... A DARK FUTURE...
BUT IS THIS FACE *MINE*? IN THE DEPTHS, NOTHINGNESS. ONLY ANSWERS I CAN'T USE. EVERYTHING IS RUINED.
NO! I'M THE ONE WHO RUINED IT ALL. OUR LOVE AND HER HOPES, WHICH I IGNORED. I MADE ALL THE SAME MISTAKES. TO GAIN A FACE, I FORGOT WHAT MATTERS MOST.
EVEN IF IT IS TOO LATE, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, ORIN. I DON'T WANT THE GIFT YOU GAVE ME...
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE YOU. COME BACK. THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE AND SO MUCH TO SHARE...
WH--?
STUPID CHILD!!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT SENTIMENTALITY ONLY LEADS TO LOSS? *THERE*, NOW YOU SEE.

I'LL HELP YOU GET RID OF IT! I FORBID YOU TO GIVE HER HOPE.
LET HER SUFFER REJECTION AND ETERNAL LONELINESS!
I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO TASTE VICTORY! I SPARED YOU BECAUSE YOU BORE THE BLOW DEALT BY MY SISTER. BUT YOU CAME BACK. I'M FED UP WITH YOUR TENDER EMOTIONS!
DIE!!
YES, DIE! THEN NOTHING WILL STAND IN MY WAY!
THAT'S RIGHT, LET HER JOIN YOUR SISTER
LET THEM PASS INTO THE BEYOND TOGETHER TO DESTROY YOUR SMALL WORLD OF ILLUSIONS.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THEY'VE ALREADY BECOME ONE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEIR SOULS CAN SHARE THE SAME BODY! PERHAPS, IF SETSUKO ACCEPTS THIS OTHER PART OF HERSELF..
IS THAT HOW YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE ME SPARE HER?
YES, I ACCEPT.
IT SEEMS THAT LOVE BLINDS EVEN THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE.
YOU'RE A PART OF ME, ORIN. THERE'S NO NEED FOR FORGIVENESS OR CONDITIONS
LIVE, ORIN! RISE UP FOR BOTH OF US!

HELP US...
HELP US...
WE'RE DYING...
SETSUKO! DON'T LEAVE ME!
LET HIM! HE ALONE CAN ACT, OR THEY'LL BOTH DIE
STOP!
MAY THE KAMI HELP US...
NO!!! AAAH!!!

SETSUKO, DON'T FOLLOW ORIN LET HER GO FIGHT... FOR OUR LOVE I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU I TRIED, BUT I NEED YOU TOO MUCH THE BEST WAY TO LOVE HER IS TO SET HER FREE...SHE WAS A PRISONER LONG ENOUGH
YOU'LL MISS HER, BUT WE CAN FILL THE EMPTINESS I CAME BACK FOR YOU EVEN SIGHT IS WORTHLESS IF I CAN'T SHARE IT WITH YOU GIVE US A CHANCE
WE RE FREE NOW...
SEMINARU...
THANK YOU, CHILD
YOU AND THE LOVE YOU GAVE ME WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME THIS ISN'T GOODBYE LIVE, SETSUKO. AND LOVE DON'T STOP LOVING THAT'S WHAT BEAUTY IS


AT LAST! THEY'VE ALL FOUND EACH OTHER AND I'M ALONE AGAIN! THAT'LL TEACH ME TO MEDDLE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS
OH, WELL I'M LEAVING TOO THERE'S TOO MUCH ROMANCE AROUND HERE!
MAYBE THERE'LL BE A BIT OF ACTION ON THE OTHER SIDE

IT'S TIME TO GO, SETSUKO .
I KNEW YOU'D STAY WITH ME .
I'M COMING, SEMINARU
JUNG et Jee

KWAÏDAN

In 12th Century Japan, one sister's spiteful jealousy begins a complicated web of revenge and redemption that spans two centuries. Ghostly encounters, samurai swordplay, undead armies, beautiful landscapes, and strange demons are brought to life by Jung's lush, expressive artwork. The lost spirits of two unlucky lovers may still find freedom in the supernatural birth of a strange girl ... and her ability to unravel the secrets of the restless ghosts that haunt her, the Kwaïdan.

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DARK HORSE BOOKS

KWAÏDAN

JUNG and JEE-YUN

KWAÏDAN

As a personal note, I hate colored series, I just can't edit these.
The fact that this was printed on cardboard didn't help the situation either. I sincerely hope Dark Horse will not print anything else in China if that's why the "paper" quality sucks monkey's balls. Anyways, I suggest anyone who is disappointed with my edits/scans quality, go buy the original instead of complaining.

-Jinchi

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